

Inventory No. HO-32

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

historic	Oakland Manor
other	

## 2. Location

street and number	5430 Vantage Point Road	_____	not for publication
city, town	Columbia	_____	vicinity
county	Howard		

**3. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Columbia Association, Inc.			
street and number	10221 Wincopin Circle		telephone	410-730-4744
city, town	Columbia	state	MD	zip code 21044-3423

#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Howard County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	30-308
city, town	Ellicott City	liber	3324 folio 191

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

## 6. Classification

<b>Category</b>		<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Current Function</b>		<b>Resource Count</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/>	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	commerce/trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/>	defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	site		<input type="checkbox"/>	domestic	<input type="checkbox"/>	social	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	object		<input type="checkbox"/>	education	<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	funerary	<input type="checkbox"/>	work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	government	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant/not in use	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>    1    </u>	<u>    0    </u>	buildings
<u>    0    </u>	<u>    0    </u>	sites
<u>    0    </u>	<u>    0    </u>	structures
<u>    0    </u>	<u>    0    </u>	objects
<u>    1    </u>	<u>    0    </u>	Total

**Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory**

1

## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

#### Manor exterior

"Oakland Manor" is located in downtown Columbia, in central Howard County, Maryland. It is a two-story, four-bay by two-bay roughcast main block with a hipped roof and standing-seam metal. The hip ridge runs east-west, and there are two interior parged chimneys, with two terra cotta pots on each, centered on this ridge. On the east and west ends of the main block are shorter two-story, three-bay by one-bay wings that are roughcast and have a gable roof with an east-west ridge. There is a large stair-stepped roughcast chimney on each gable end of these wings. Both the wings and the main block have a raised basement, and there are all new sash and blinds.

The north elevation has a stone water table at the top of the basement windows on both the main block and the wings, and this is painted. The main block has a center entrance with new double doors and trim below a leaded glass fanlight with a bull nose frame. The fanlight has eight Gothic lancet lights inside of swags. The sill appears to be marble, and there is a stone surround that is painted and is recessed several inches back of the roughcasting. There is a one-story, one-bay modern porch that shelters the doorway and has paired Doric columns and a full entablature with a dental cornice. The porch has a half-hip roof. Above the porch is a tripartite window with a six-over-six sash in the center and a two-over-two sash to each side. There are paneled mullions separating the sash and similar panels above the two-over-two sash. The end bays have a three-over-three sash in the basement and a six-over-six sash on the first story that is set in a recessed semi-circular arched blind opening that has a painted stone sill. The second story end bays have a six-over-six sash without the recess. The cornice has been rebuilt. The north elevation of the west wing has three three-over-three sash with stone sills in the basement. The first story has three six-over-six sash in recessed, semi-circular blind openings with stone sills. The center opening sill has the wash cut away in the center, while the end bays have the wash carried all the way across the sill, suggesting there was a door here at one time. The second story has three six-over-six sash with stone sills, and there is a rebuilt cornice. The north elevation of the east wing is identical to the west wing on all three stories, and the center bay of the first story has the wash cut out of the sill, while this was not done on the end bays.

The west elevation of the west wing has no openings, and there is a three-step parapet on the end wall. There is a one-story kitchen addition in the southwest corner of the angle between the main block and the west wing. The south elevation of the west wing has three six-over-six sash on the second story that match the north elevation. There are two gabled dormers with modern round-arched vents. The west elevation of the main block, on the second story south bay has a six-over-six sash. The south elevation of the main block has four doors with new trim on the first story, and they are set in recessed arcades. There is a tile terrace with a balustrade across four bays, covered with an awning. The second story has four six-over-six sash with a blind recess below the sill that is roughcast. There are two gabled dormers with round-arched vents, between the end and center bays.

On the east elevation of the main block, the basement has a blind recess in the south bay that is parged, with a stone water table above it. To the north is a new door and frame. Between these two openings is a parged retaining wall topped with large, squared stones that runs to the east. The north bay of the main block is covered by the east wing. The first and second stories have no openings. On the south elevation of the east wing the basement has a new door and frame in the west bay. The center bay has a three-over-three sash, and part of the water table has been cut out indicating that this opening was altered at some time. The windowsill has had part of the outer face spalled and must be sandstone. The wash on the sill is not in the center. The east bay has a three-over-three sash with a stone sill, and this wash is also not in the center. The first story east and west bays each have a six-over-six sash with a stone sill. The center bay has a wider frame and a wood sill. The second story has three six-over-six sash with stone sills. There are two gabled dormers that match those in the west wing. The east elevation of the east wing has no openings and matches the west wing in its details.

#### Manor interior, first story

The house has two rooms in the main block, one on the north and one on the south. There is a center cross-passage into the wings, with many small rooms in each. The cross passage passes beneath the stairways. The north room has new 2 1/4-inch oak flooring

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that runs east-west and baseboard with a quirked Greek ogee. The architrave is symmetrical with a quirked Greek ogee on either side of the sunken field, and the same moulding is used to create square corner blocks. The baseboard and architrave are all new. There is a three-run stair on both the east and west ends, and it has turned, tapered newel posts that have a natural finish and are made of built up wood boards. There are turned balusters and a moulded handrail that all dates to the twentieth-century, and the stair has sawn brackets. The window sash are all new and are set in splayed jambs with four panels each and two on the soffit. The panels have sunken fields with a small quirked ogee and bead panel mould, and are not mortised and tenoned and pinned. This material is probably all twentieth-century. There is a wood cornice in the room that is also twentieth-century. The south wall has double doors that are twentieth-century, with typical trim. There is a leaded glass fanlight above that matches the front fanlight, and has a mirror behind it. To each side of this doorway is a fireplace with a white marble hearth and surround, splayed parged jambs, and brick on the firebox floor. Each fireplace has a wood mantel with paired reeded pilasters, oval fans on the impost and frieze blocks, and fret dentals. All of this work is also from the 20th century.

The first story north room front door fanlight architrave is old, as is the leaded glass fanlight here. There are traces of old white paint on the lead comes, with at least two layers, and some red paint on some of the comes. The fanlight is not original to this opening, however, as there are patches on the wood sash where the original muntins apparently were. The fanlight in the partition wall between the north and south rooms has completely different comes than the front fanlight, with no traces of paint. The exterior side of the north fanlight has more paint and some caulk. There are no markings scratched into the canes on this fanlight, either on the interior or the exterior.

The south room has the same flooring, baseboard, architrave, and wood cornice as the north room. There are two fireplaces on the north wall that match the north room, but the mantels have paired reeded half-columns. This room has chair rail that is half-round and reeded and also dates to the 20th century. The south wall has four doors that are all new, with two panels above each door. The ceiling has three run plaster medallions with reeds that probably also date to the 20th century. The west wall has double doors in an arched opening that leads to a modern kitchen in the wing, and this also appears to be from the 20th century.

The west wing doorway from the north room has paneled jambs with three panels on each and two on the soffit. They have sunken fields and quirked steep ogee and bead panel moulds, and they are mortised and tenoned and pinned. This material is probably original and has a six-panel door with matching panels. The door is also mortised and tenoned and pinned, but has new hardware. The west side of the doorway has a quirked steep Greek ogee and bead on the frame. The floor plan in the wing is completely altered, and this is a recent change. There are several old six-panel doors that are mortised and tenoned and pinned and have sunken fields with different panel moulds and new hardware reused in the wing. On the west end is a fireplace with a slight hearth and what appears to be a slight surround. It has splayed jambs and a twentieth-century wood mantel. There is a modern addition attached to the south side of this wing, and it contains a stairway down to the basement.

The east wing doorway from the north room matches the doorway to the west wing. The floor plan has also been completely altered and the wing has all recent trim. There is one old door to a large room on the east end that matches the door to the west wing. The east room baseboard and chair rail match the south room and windows have splayed plaster jambs. There is a fireplace on the east elevation that appears to have a slate hearth and surround and has splayed parged jambs. The wood mantel has reeded pilasters and a plain frieze and dates from the 20th century.

## Manor interior, second story

The main block on the second story has a passage running east-west in the center that connects the two stairways, with three rooms on the north side and two on the south, and one room in each wing accessed off the lower landings. The passage is carpeted and the baseboard matches the first story. The architrave also matches the first story but it is original on the two north doors and two south doors but not on the east door to the attic stairs or the west door to the northwest chamber. This architrave has a quirked Greek ovolo and bead on either side of a field, with a small bead on the inner edge. The north-center door has a round-arched

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opening with a leaded glass fanlight. The opening is original but the framing for the fanlight is not and was probably done in the twentieth-century. The door is mortised and tenoned and pinned and has been flipped several times. It has six panels with sunken fields and quirked Greek ogee-and-bead panel moulds and has all new hardware. The northeast door has three panels and is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. The south passage wall is masonry and the door jambs are paneled and match those in the first-story doors to the wings. The jambs are mortised and tenoned and pinned but the doors are new and are glazed. There is a run plaster cornice in the passage with several ovoid mouldings and a small cove with a bead at the bottom.

The north-center chamber has carpeting, new baseboard, and new bead-board wainscot with chair rail. There are new doors on the east and west elevations. The triple window on the north has a broken field architrave with a bead at the break and a quirked Greek ovolo and bead back band, with a raised bead on the inner edge. The jambs are paneled and are actually shutters that are now fixed in the open position. They are mortised and tenoned and pinned and have sunken fields with quirked ovolo-and-bead panel moulds. There is a new wood cornice in this chamber.

The northeast chamber has a modern bathroom, a new wood cornice, and wainscot and chair rail like that in the north-center chamber. The window has new architrave but original splayed jambs with paneled shutters that are now fixed open. There are now two shutters on each jamb with two panels on each shutter, and they match those in the north-center chamber. The northwest chamber is also a modern bathroom and matches the northeast, with new trim and original shutters.

The second-story southeast and southwest chambers in the main block have carpeting, new baseboard with a cavetto on top and two new arched openings between the rooms with new trim that copies the original. The passage door to the southwest chamber has new trim while the passage door to the southeast chamber has original trim that matches that in the passage. There are fireplaces on the north wall in both chambers, and they are both closed off. The west window has architrave that is similar to the original, but the mouldings are deeper and it appears to be a later 19th century copy of the original. The jambs are splayed and paneled with flat, sunken panels that either have chatter marks or remnants of saw marks. There are quirked ogee panel moulds. There are two panels on the soffit, five on each jamb, and one on each jamb below the sill, plus two on the wall under the sill that have sunken fields. There is no clear evidence that the panels were shutters, but the added trim may hide this fact. The southwest window has original trim with two panels on the soffit, four on each jamb above the sill and the wall beneath the sill is completely hidden. The panels have sunken fields, but it is not possible to determine if they are shutters. The west-center bay window has new trim, and the panels match the west bay, with small ovolo-and-bead panel moulds. There are patches where the pulls were, indicating that these were shutters. There is also one panel below the sill on each jamb and two on the wall below the sill; these are hinged in order to walk out onto a porch. These jib window doors are hung on large cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles. They have sunken fields and ovolo-and-bead panel moulds, with a bead in the center where the doors meet. The east-center bay has new trim and new panels above the sill. Below the sill are jib windows that match the west-center bay, and the doors are mortised and tenoned and pinned. The west jamb panel is also mortised and tenoned and pinned, while the east jamb panel below the sill is new. The east bay has original architrave on the jambs above the sill. The soffit panels and the jamb panels beneath the sill are new. The panels below the window are original and are not hinged and probably never were meant to open. All of the windows have been boarded over in the conversion of these two chambers to museum space.

The west wing chamber has two steps up from the landing, and has a round-arched doorway with paneled jambs, having two on each jamb and two on the soffit. The panels have sunken fields and quirked Greek ogee panel moulds, and they are not mortised and tenoned and pinned. These panels and mouldings differ from the rest of the old material in the house. There is a four-panel round-arched door in the opening, and the panels match those of the jambs. There is no evidence of a doorway on the east wall of this chamber, and there was probably no connection between it and the main block originally. The windows have all new frames and plain splayed jambs that may be covered with drywall. There is carpeting, drywall on the walls and ceiling, and ogee and bevel baseboard. There is a fireplace on the west elevation with a white marble hearth and surround, a brick firebox floor, and splayed parged jambs to the firebox. The wood mantel here is old and the pilasters have the symmetrical architrave found



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elsewhere on the second story. There are raised, plain impost blocks and frieze, and a bed mould that has a bead above an ovolo, with a cavetto and bead at the bottom. There is a Greek ovolo and bead on the edge of the shelf. This mantel appears to be original to the house, though it can not be certain that it was located here.

The east wing chamber has a semi-circular arched opening from the landing and the jambs have two panels each, with two on the soffit. The panels have sunken fields and quirked Greek ovolo and bead panel moulds, and they match the other second-story panels. They are also mortised and tenoned and pinned. There is a moulding at the spring line that has a quirked Greek ovolo and bead at the top and a raised bead at the bottom. The door is identical to that leading to the second story of the west wing. The east wing chamber is one large room now with carpeting, baseboard with a quirked ogee and bevel, and all new window frames with plain splayed jambs. There is a fireplace on the east elevation, set north of center, which has a hearth that may be slate and a matching surround. There are parged, splayed jambs and the firebox floor is brick. There is a wood mantel with reeded pilasters that is modern. To the south of center is a ghost on the east wall of a partition wall that ran east-west; this shows in the ceiling most of the way to the west. North of the fireplace is a built-in closet with a six-panel door that has sunken fields and ovolo panel moulds. The door is mortised and tenoned and pinned but has been flipped and has new hardware. There is only a backband on the frame of the doorway, and it as a quirked Greek ovolo and bead.

## Manor interior, basement

The basement has been completely remodeled inside. The stairway descends to the southwest corner of the west wing, which has a center cross passage that runs east-west, with the original exterior masonry wall serving as a partition wall to the north. This passage then jogs to the north in the main block and runs east-west through the center of the main block. The passage connects to the east wing, which has a vestibule and one room in it. The west wing basement has one large room to the north.

This north room in the west wing has two windows on the south wall, and they have splayed jambs and four vertical bars. The openings are walled off on the south side and have three-over-three sash on the north side, with the vertical bars behind the sash. Three of the sash have lancet muntins, 10-inch by 15-inch lights and are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners. The west wall has a large semi-circular opening that is covered with drywall all over it. This was probably a cooking fireplace, but too little is visible at this time to be certain. The north wall has three new sash set in openings with splayed jambs. The south rooms in the west wing are bathrooms and storage areas with no windows.

The main block basement has three rooms across the north side of the passage and four rooms across the south side. The main block northwest and north-center basement rooms have two windows on the north elevation, one in each room. The openings have splayed jambs with drywall on the walls and ceilings and carpeting on the floor. There are no historic features visible. The southwest corner room is completely modernized inside. The southeast-center room has sawn joists that run north-south with traces of whitewash. There are new joists that are lag-bolted to both sides of the earlier joists. There is plaster between the joists, near the top side of the joists, and there appears to be a piece of riven lath below the plaster that runs north-south. On the north elevation is a fireplace header, and the joists are mortised and tenoned and pegged to it. The header has a long through tenon with a vertical wedge through it on the face, and there is a hearth here of arched brick covered with parging. The west wall is plaster on stone and is in the center of the house, running north-south. The northeast basement room has been completely remodeled and has a window on the north elevation. The southeast basement room has been completely remodeled and has no windows. There is a modern door on the east elevation that leads to the exterior.

The east wing has a sprinkler room in the northwest corner. The joists are exposed here and are sawn and whitewashed. The joists are 10-1/2 inches deep by 2-3/4 inches wide, are spaced 16 inches on centers, and have irregular vertical saw marks. The wing and main block stone foundation walls are toothed together. The east wing basement room has two windows on both the north and south, with splayed jambs covered with drywall. The east elevation has a boxed-in fireplace for chimney buttresses though it has been covered with drywall and is not possible to tell what is here. The walls and ceiling are covered with drywall, and there is

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carpeting on the floor.

### Manor interior, attic

The attic stairs are in the southeast corner of the main block and are now closed off with plaster over drywall. There are reused studs framed in with wire nails in the wall that closes the stairs off from the passage. The north wall of the stairway is plaster on riven lath, with original studs that are nailed to a diagonal nailer that parallels the rafters; there are double-struck nails here. The handrail is moulded, and is rather broad and shallow, and the balustrade has jigsawn boards with a cutout in the center of a fleur de lis pattern at top and bottom with a circle between them. The balustrade boards are also decoratively cut on the edge and are toe-nailed with cut nails. There are sawn stair brackets with a Vitruvian wave or scroll pattern, and these are fastened with small cut sprigs that have L heads. Only one bracket survives, most having been removed along with the stair noses when the stairway was closed off. The original balusters had a half dovetail on the bottom of each. The existing handrail is curved at the landing, and so are the two sawn brackets beneath it. The stair has two runs with a landing at the east end. The lower run ascends to the east, and the upper run to the west along the masonry partition wall. This wall is plaster on stone. The original railing appears to have had newel posts at both corners of the landing. There was chair rail that followed the handrail, and it was ramped at the ending and at the top of the stairway. The chair rail has been removed, but there is a wood nailer still imbedded in the wall and now painted over. The original stairs appear to have been open all the way to the attic. The attic is partially divided by stone chimneys topped with brick and parged. The chimneys run east-west from the end walls, with an opening between them in the center of the main block. The west chimney has fragments of frame wall attached, and these are full of double-struck nails. There is a rafter nailed to a hip rafter with what appears to be double-struck nails.

The dragon piece has a through tenon with a vertical draw peg. The attic joists are sawn, though there are no clear saw marks, and one side of several of them is adzed. The joists run north-south and are 2-1/2 to 3 inches wide by 10 inches deep. They are spaced 17-1/2 to 21 inches on centers, and one of them has a double-struck nail on top of it that could have been for original flooring, with the attic now covered with plywood flooring. The west end joist is sash sawn. The short hip joists are through-tenoned into this end joist and have long, narrow face wedges through the top of the tenons. There are original knee wall studs here, with the top ends half-lapped to the sides of the rafters; these joints with the rafters are now hidden. West of the west chimney is a stud wall with riven lath and plaster. There is a lath nailer nailed on top of it to hold the ends of the west wall lath, and it is fastened with double struck nails. There are collar beams in the roof that appear to have center tenons into the rafters, and the tenons were sawn. The collar beams have plaster burns and lath nails. The west knee wall studs have lath nails that are cut, and the heads are mashed and appear to be handmade. The rafters and collars are now completely covered by insulation, and there are new pieces scabbed alongside the originals.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates N/A Architect/Builder Abraham Larew

Construction dates 1810-1811

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

"Oakland Manor" is located on a tract known as "Felicity" that was a resurvey on several tracts of land purchased by Baltimore merchant John Sterrett in 1785. Sterrett was apparently a privateer during the Revolution and one of the active ships in Baltimore during this period, probably owned in part by him, was the "Felicity." The tracts that Sterrett purchased included parts of "Steven's Forrest," "Whitakers Chance," and "The Addition, alias Browns Addition," totaling 1696 1/2 acres that had formerly belonged to Mathias Hammond. Sterrett applied to have his land resurveyed, and any vacant land taken up, months before the deed was even executed, but he died in 1787 at age 36 and the patent was completed by his heirs. The actual acreage of the property after the survey was 1,597 acres, which it was noted was "less than the original complement." At his death his son Charles, who was only six, became a ward of an uncle, Capt. Charles Ridgely of "Hampton Mansion." John Sterrett's wife (and Charles' mother), Deborah, was the daughter of John Ridgely, and Capt. Ridgely apparently was her uncle. Capt. Ridgely wrote his will in 1786 and died in 1790, however, leaving John Sterrett "all the remaining part of the land I purchased of John Robinson being part of Coles Harbour and Todds Range not heretofore disposed of also my undivided half of all those lots on Fells Point which I purchased of Edward Fell." It is not clear how much land was involved, but it was located on the east side of Baltimore, not in Howard County. John Sterrett was to inherit for life, and then the land would pass to his son, Charles, with the stipulation that Charles legally adopt the last name Ridgely and pass that name on to his male heirs. Since John Sterrett had died before Capt. Ridgely, the bequest passed directly to Charles. Charles Sterrett Ridgely was a graduate of St. John's College in Annapolis in 1802 and was living in Baltimore when he married Eliza Hollingsworth in 1804. He was active in the Baltimore Hussars until fighting a duel with the son of Comm. Joshua Barney (neither was hurt), after which time he apparently moved to the Elkridge area and commanded "Ridgely's Horse," another militia troop. (1)

The 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment gives Deborah Sterrett as the owner and occupant of "Felicity Farm," and notes that the buildings on the two-acre home lot included:

"1 dwelling house, 1/3 brick, 1/3 log, 1/3 stone, 66 by 18 feet, 1 story  
1 log kitchen, 20 by 18 feet, 1 story  
1 log smoke house, 18 feet square, 1 story  
1 log hen house, 10 by 12 feet  
1 log stable, 15 by 12 feet  
1 log dairey [sic], 14 feet square."

Scattered across the remainder of the property were:

"1 log dwelling house, 24 by 18 feet, 1 story"

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1 old stone kitchen, 18 feet square  
1 log corn house, 44 by 36 feet  
1 fraimed [sic] barn, 30 by 20 feet  
1 log negroe quarter, 36 by 18 feet."

The farm was 1107 acres, and the location of the buildings is unknown, though the home lot buildings were not where the "Oakland Manor" house is now. (2)

Deborah Sterrett agreed to sell 533 acres, with the major improvements, to her son James Sterrett and 567 acres to her other son, Charles Sterrett Ridgely, some time before writing her will in 1812. In 1813 she executed contracts to this effect, with Charles agreeing to pay her \$1,000 per year in quarterly payments, for the rest of her life, and after her death he would pay his sisters \$15,880, with interest, in five annual payments. This agreement was apparently sufficient for Charles to begin planning and building a substantial country estate. Ridgely hired Abraham Lerew (died 1817), a Baltimore carpenter about whom little is known, to design his house. Lerew owned an unspecified number of architectural books that may have assisted him with this design. An undated letter by Lerew included with a booklet of architectural drawings states: "After having made various designs for the house in different styles Chas. Sterett Ridgely Esqr. Fixed upon the following, and directed it to bee [sic] carried into execution. In consequence of his orders, the worke was begun in July 5 1810 and finished September 9th 1811 . . . . The situation of the house is peculiarly fortunate, stands on the easy declivity of a hill, at the bottom of which, along the vale, turns the river Patuxen [sic] a cleare and beautiful stream." Interestingly, there was reportedly a cornerstone on the house inscribed "C. R. 1820." Its existence was first documented in 1907 but was not visible in 2007. (3)

There are nine surviving sheets of drawings that are now loose but were once bound together, apparently as a presentation to Ridgely much as architect Robert Mills did at the same time for many of his clients. The drawings are not numbered, so it is not clear if they are complete, though they seem to be substantially so. All of the drawings are done in a black ink, typically with a gray wash and sometimes with other colored washes. A comparison of the drawings with the existing historic fabric of the house is instructive. There is an elevation of the north front that shows the house substantially as it exists today, a three-bay center block with shorter three-bay wings on each side. The drawing is at a scale on 1 inch to 10 feet and notes that the front is 111 feet long. There was no front porch, and the windows were shown only as dark voids without sash, but were set in blind arches on the first story. Above the center doorway is a dark void that suggests a fanlight was to go here, but the details were omitted. The existing leaded-glass fanlight is set in an earlier wooden sash, suggesting that it was a later alteration to the house. The walls in the drawings are colored with a yellow wash and apparently were always meant to be stuccoed and painted, but the foundation below the water table is a coursed ashlar in Lerew's elevation. There were parapets on the eave, with the center being stepped, and these apparently were not constructed, or did not survive into the era of illustrations. (4)

The center bay of the second story contains a tripartite sash, a feature that was introduced by Benjamin Henry Latrobe and copied by his student, Robert Mills. Where Lerew may have seen it is unknown, since the earliest use in Baltimore seems to be the John Hoffman House, designed by Mills and begun in late 1810. This suggests that "Oakland Manor" may be the earliest use of this motif in the Baltimore area, but it is unlikely that it originated with Lerew. Instead, he may have been influenced by Latrobe's use of this motif in "Sedgley," of 1799, outside of Philadelphia. This house also had some Gothic arches, such as are found on the "Oakland Manor" carriage house. Lerew could have seen an illustration of "Sedgley" in William Birch's *Country Seats of the United States*, published in 1808. In the elevations for "Oakland Manor" the first-story center bays of both wings contain doors with no stairs, while Lerew's plan of the house shows windows in this location. The existing water table/sill in these two locations have a wash indicating that a door was intended, but it is not clear whether a change was made during construction or sometime afterward. Most likely, Lerew's plan was in error. (5)



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There is also an elevation of the south front of the main block, only, which was 49 feet long and drawn at a scale of 1 1/2 inches to 10 feet. There is a one-story, flat-roofed porch across the four-bay elevation, supported by columns that have only schematic capitals. Jib windows that appear to be original survive on the second story of the house, suggesting that this porch was always meant to be walked out upon. In the plan, however, these are shown as normal windows like all of the others, and on the elevation the porch balustrade obscures the area beneath the windows. Given other inconsistencies in Lerew's drawings and the tall balustrade intended for the rear porch, it seems likely that the jib windows were intended from the beginning. The south elevation of the wings is not shown, but the plan indicates that the center bay of each, on the first story, was to have a door. The west wing is now covered by the commercial kitchen addition and cannot be examined, but the east wing clearly had a doorway in the center at some point. Lerew gives shadow lines for some of the openings on this elevation and all of them on the north elevation, but does not include shadows under the cornice, and his shadows are not crisp. In other drawings his coursing of what is apparently brick is irregular, and his drafting technique, while adequate, is hardly refined; Lerew clearly did not have the training or drafting ability of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, nor was he even as accomplished a draftsman as Robert Mills. His education probably came from someone like J. J. Boudier, a French expatriate of St. Domingue who advertised "Lessons on Architectural Drawing" in Baltimore. Based on Lerew's description of the design process, he either was not highly educated, as a gentleman architect would have been, or possibly English was not his native tongue. It has been speculated that he was French, perhaps based on his name, though his background is as yet unknown. Nonetheless, it is interesting how quickly new ideas and influences in architecture were being spread by gifted carpenter-builders and their progressive clients. (6)

There are plans of the basement, first, and second stories of the house. The first story of the existing building has been completely altered, so the plan is invaluable for indicating the intended arrangement. One entered into a large hall that connected to a cross-passage in the center running over to both wings. The stairway was in this cross-passage, to the east of the hall. Flanking the hall were two rooms accessed from the cross-passage; to the east was the "house keepers room," with a fireplace on the south wall, and to the west was the "library," with a fireplace on the east wall. South of the cross-passage was a double parlor, each with a fireplace on the north wall. These fireplaces survive, though they have been completely modernized. The east wing was the kitchen, with a stairway in a separate room in the northwest corner. The doorway to this room apparently had sidelights, even though it was an interior access. The west wing had a mirror plan of the kitchen wing, but the main room was not labeled so its function is not known. The walls in the plan are given a red wash. The basement plan walls are given a grey wash, and the plan is drawn at a scale of 1 inch to 10 feet. The room arrangement generally follows the first story, with no names given to the rooms. The second story plan has a yellow wash in the walls. There is a double parlor on the south half of the building that is identical to the first story and must have been for entertaining rather than for sleeping. The stairs were at the east end of the center cross-passage, with a chamber in the northeast corner that contained a fireplace on the south wall, another chamber centered on the north wall, and one across the west end. This west chamber had a fireplace centered on the east wall, and it is this room arrangement that must have driven the location of the fireplace in the library below, which was placed on the east wall rather than the south wall, as with the northeast (house keeper's) room. When the first story was altered, the fireplaces in the library and house keeper's room, as well as the chambers above, were taken down.

The east wing was accessible from the main stairway and had a plan similar to the first story, while the west wing was only accessible from the stairway below and was one large room with a small closet in the southeast corner. Both wings had stairways to the attic, but these spaces are no longer accessible. Original architraves survive on the second story and already have Greek profiles by this time (a quirked, steep Greek ovolo and bead backband) and in several instances use symmetrical architrave with corner blocks. If original, this would be a very early instance of this decorative treatment.

The carriage house is also shown in plan and elevations. This building survives and was inventoried separately as HO-32b. Also shown is a plan and two elevations of a dog kennel that apparently does not survive. This was a one-story brick structure with a 22-foot front and a depth of 23 feet, with no partitions on the interior. There are several other buildings that were originally part

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of Oakland and are surveyed separately, including the "Eye of the Camel" (HO-551), which is still on the property next to the manor house, the so-called "Old Oakland Manor" (HO-184), which was purported to predate the manor but almost certainly does not, the "Blacksmith Shop," (HO-185), the "Slave Quarters," (HO-331), and the "Wilde Lake Barn," (HO-576), which is also referred to as the Oakland Manor Barn and often confused with the carriage house. There are several buildings that have traditionally been associated with "Oakland Mills," including the Gales-Gaither House (HO-155) and "Felicity," (HO-430). The history of most of these buildings has not yet been re-examined to determine the accuracy of these assertions.

Charles Sterrett Ridgely apparently developed the "Oakland Mills" in conjunction with his brother, James Sterrett, on land that Charles owned. The mill does not show up in the 1798 tax and an advertisement for an adjacent property in 1815 notes "a new mill to be built by Major Charles S. Ridgely. James Sterrett never received a deed for his share of the property, but turned it over to a trustee along with the rest of his estate in 1819. Charles Sterrett Ridgely probably sold his share in the mill shortly afterward, since by 1826 it was no longer part of "Oakland Manor." It was later acquired by the Olivers and returned to "Oakland Manor." Charles Sterrett Ridgely also bought an additional 115 acres from the estate of Joseph Nicholson in early 1819, for which he paid \$6,836.67. He also kept a house on Franklin Street in Baltimore. (7)

Deborah Sterrett died in 1819 and in order to settle her estate her four daughters brought suit against their two brothers. James Sterrett was insolvent and had already sold his land to the City Bank of Baltimore. Charles had apparently not paid any part of what he owed his mother. During these legal proceedings one of the sisters, Eliza Matthews, died and an agreement was made that Charles would pay one-fourth of what he owed to her estate, apparently because it had to be settled, and the remaining three-fourths would be postponed until 1 May 1826, as long as Charles paid interest. Charles apparently could not pay, so he sold "Oakland Manor" to Robert Oliver for \$47,000 in 1825, and paid his sisters what he owed them out of these proceeds. The estate was estimated to be 567 acres, minus the 16 1/4-acre "Oakland Mills." Charles reportedly rented "Belmont," just west of Elkridge Landing, from the heirs of his college classmate, Alexander Contee Hanson, served several terms in the Maryland House of Delegates, and died in Elkridge in 1847. (8)

Robert Oliver (1757-1834) was a wealthy Baltimore businessman who already owned a country estate, "Greenmount," close to the city, as well as a deer park at Harewood. He purchased several adjoining properties to enlarge "Oakland" for his son, Thomas (1802-1848), who married Mary Coale Harrison (1805-1873) in 1826. A year later Robert sold "Oakland Manor," consisting now of about 1064 acres, to Thomas for \$10.00 and Thomas added several other parcels over the next few years. Almost nothing is known about Thomas Oliver or "Oakland Manor" during his ownership, but a lengthy description of the property is given when Oliver offered it for sale in 1838:

"...The numerous springs which are upon this estate and the Patuxent river flowing about 1 1/2 miles through it, afford an opportunity to have water in every field, and of irrigating a great portion of the land. There are about 165 acres of the finest meadow land of the very best soil, and a great abundance of wood. The fences are strong and made in the best manner, and there is also upwards of a mile of blackthorn and locust hedge, - with a number of ornamental trees planted in different places. "The improvements are of the most costly, substantial and elegant kind. The main building or mansion house, is of stone and rough cast, - 48 feet by 41 - with two wings attached on the east and west, built and finished in the same manner: each wing being 31 feet by 22, making the whole length of the building 110 feet; with a piazza to the main house of 46 by 7 1/2 feet deep. The walls of the house are 26 inches thick. There is a large hall - 6 rooms and 2 pantries on the first floor - 7 rooms and a large closet on the second floor, 3 bed rooms and wine closet in the garrett and 5 rooms or apartments besides a wine room in the cellar or basement - and also a hot air furnace for warming the whole house. Near the east wing is a wash house, and an ice house, both built of stone in the most convenient and suitable manner - the ice house is arched and capable of holding about 1200 bushels of ice. The carriage house and stabling (which are also of stone and built in the most faithful manner) is 91 feet by 36. All of these buildings were erected by General Ridgely, in the most strong and beautiful manner. At the farm quarter (and a convenient distance from the mansion house) is the overseer's house, which is about 45 feet by 20, a two story stone quarter 51

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feet by 24, also a log quarter 41 feet by 20, a dairy 29 feet by 19 built of stone, and well supplied by a fine spring. The out buildings are two large hay barns with stables below for cattle and horses, each house being 94 feet by 18, -- built of stone in the best manner, the lower story open to a southern exposure with a yard enclosed by a stone wall. Also a frame barn 75 feet by 59, with gearing and fixtures of modern construction for thrashing and cleaning grain by horse power. A log tobacco house 70 feet by about 22, -- a log stable 40 feet by 20, two log corn houses, and sheds for wagons, carts and farming utensils.

"There is on this estate, and immediately on the turnpike road, a fine mill seat, upon which lately stood a large grist mill, 5 stories high, 51 feet by 40, and which run 4 pair of stones, and supplied with water from the Patuxent river. The inside of this mill was recently burnt leaving the greater portion of the walls standing, which are of stone: to this mill was formerly attached a saw and plaster mill, which were burnt at the time the grist mill was burnt. Near where the walls of the mill are, is the miller's house, a large store and dwelling house and cooper's shop, a blacksmith's dwelling house and shop, and wheelwright's shop. . . . "There are also other houses on other parts of this estate, some of stone and some of wood -- and also four pumps of excellent water." (9)

The property was to be offered first as one large estate, and if no one was interested, would then be sold in pieces. The first lot, known as the home place, would include all of the farm buildings itemized above, before the description of the mill property, and it was noted that this lot (of 535 acres) had "a large branch . . . capable also of turning a mill, there having been one formerly upon it." There were 120 acres in meadow and 108 acres in wood, plus a large apple and peach orchard and a "large stone quarry." The remaining lots were described with their improvements. Lot 2 was west of the home lot and contained 216 3/4 acres. "The improvements on this tract are a two story stone house about 23 feet square, built by the late Judge Nicholson; also a stone granary 25 feet by 20." There were about 40 acres in wood, but no mention of the meadow land. Lot 3 was the mill lot, which stood on the east side of the home lot. This was 18 acres, and included the mill race and head gates. The miller's house was cut off separately from the mill as lot 4. It was noted: "the house is of stone, 2 stories high, and is 26 feet by 18." Lot 5 was "the store and dwelling, and ice house adjoining," on about 1 rood of land fronting on the turnpike. The building was apparently 83 feet long, part stone and part wood. Lot 6 was four acres with the cooper's dwelling and shop: "those houses are frame 38 feet by 18." The blacksmith's house and shop were cut off on 10 acres as lot 7. "The dwelling is a two story frame about 32 feet by 15 1/2, and the shop is about 24 feet by 20." Lot 8 was the wheelwright's shop and 15 acres, on the east side of the home place and also on the turnpike. Apparently, all of the shops were more or less clustered together along the turnpike creating a small manufacturing village. The remaining three lots were cut off as separate farms. Lot 9 was 213 acres adjoining the northeast corner of the home place, and had 25 acres in wood and 25 to 30 acres in meadow. "The improvements are a small house on the turnpike and 2 log tobacco houses -- the latter are old and out of repair." Lot 10 was 35 acres and apparently did not contain any buildings. Lot 11 was 175 acres on the south side of the home farm, with 46 acres in wood and 20 in meadow. No buildings were listed for this property, either. (10)

The stone washhouse adjoining the east wing must be the building once referred to as "Eye of the Camel" (HO-551) and now known as the Rose Price Cottage. The ice house survives and is attached to the washhouse. The overseer's house is probably the building known as the "Old Oakland Manor," and whether any of the other buildings near it are those mentioned in the advertisement or later replacements has yet to be determined. Central heating furnaces were still a new technology generally only found in some large public buildings and the homes of a few of the wealthiest Baltimoreans. The wine closet in the garret would have been to store Madeira, which can be kept warm.

"Oakland Manor" was purchased by George R. Gaither, a native of Montgomery County who had moved to Baltimore to establish a wholesale dry goods business, for \$55,459.95 and the mill for another \$2,600. Gaither came to Baltimore in 1825, at the age of 28, and "retired to private life" 15 years later. Thus, he must have bought "Oakland Manor" with an eye towards retirement, but it was also meant to be a productive farm. The 1850 agricultural census gives one the first glimpse of Gaither's operation, which seems to have been diverse, with crops of wheat, corn, oats, and hay, plus the production of wool and butter. If



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his production was typical for the region at that time, the scale was not; Gaither has 1400 acres under cultivation, with 25 horses, nine mules, and four oxen supplying the draft power, and 32 milch cows, 43 sheep, and 34 hogs. Since Gaither was not coming from the Tidewater agricultural tradition it is not surprising that he was raising no tobacco. By 1860 he had eliminated the sheep, reduced the number of milch cows and the production of butter, and increased pork production. Gaither was responsible for building several other houses in the neighborhood, including "Blandair" (HO-33) for his son, Thomas H. Gaither, after his wedding to Sophia Mayo in 1857 and reportedly "Bleak House" (no longer extant) for another son, George R. Gaither, Jr., after his marriage to Rebecca Hanson Dorsey. Gaither was said to have raised a militia company of 60 men known as Gaither's Troopers, and after the start of the Civil War they went south to serve in the Confederate army. "Oakland Manor" was reportedly raided by Union troops during the Civil War and the Gaithers sold the farm in 1864 to Philip and Katherine Tabb for \$78,000, and moved back to Baltimore. (11)

Philip Tabb was a native of Virginia and his wife, Katherine Morris, was from New York. The Morrises and Lorillards from New York built a half-mile racetrack and used "Oakland Manor" as a stock farm where were bred some famous racehorses of their day, including "Iroquois" and "Parole." Neither Tabb nor Morris could be located in the 1870 agricultural census, suggesting the possibility that much of the farming at "Oakland Manor" was being conducted by one or more tenants at that time. Three years after purchasing "Oakland Manor" a survey was made of the property showing the arrangement of house and outbuildings as well as a perspective view of the mansion. The view is from the southwest, showing both the west and south elevations, and there are numerous features that are not seen in any other photographs of the mansion. Most obvious is the two-story porch that appears to be of wrought iron. The west wing has a conservatory addition on the west elevation and a wrought iron porch over the doorway in the center of the south elevation, while the east wing has a bay window added where the center-bay door was. The large chimney walls on the ends of the wings are not shown, with small chimneys in the outer corners of the wing instead. Both wings have what appear to be balustrades along the eave line, while the center block has a parapet similar to that shown in Lerew's original plans. While this latter may have been a surviving feature, the other differences probably reflect intended alterations that there is no evidence were ever made. (12)

The plat shows the house set on a knoll that slopes away on almost all sides, with a circular drive to the north, the washhouse to the east, and a "Dwarf fruit orchard" down the slope to the south. Further east was a garden and north of it the stable and carriage house that Lerew designed for Ridgely. This building was prominently situated so that it would have been passed while traveling along the farm road from the Columbia Turnpike either back to the Farm Quarter northwest of the house, or turning off to the mansion itself. The Farm Quarter was a complete agricultural complex with a stone barn in the center that is generally located where the existing Wilde Lake Barn (HO-576) now stands. There are at least 10 other buildings amidst the complex, but the only other one named is the dairy, which may also survive but has not yet been documented. The orchard was located to the north of the farm complex. To the southwest of the Farm Quarter was a stone quarry that probably supplied the material for all of these buildings (and was probably the one mentioned in the 1838 ad), and another farm building on the lane between these two sites. There were several farms along Clarksville Pike that were part of "Oakland Manor" and had their own houses, and these were likely leased to tenant farmers.

In 1874 the Tabbs sold "Oakland Manor" to Katherine's father, Francis Morris (1810-1886) of Westchester, New York, for \$85,000. Morris was a native of Monmouthshire, Wales, was involved in shipping, and was president of the Central American Transit Line and the American Telegraph Company. After their merger into Western Union he became treasurer of that company. Morris apparently moved to "Oakland Manor" and lived here with his daughter and son-in-law. Morris was more than just a racing enthusiast, he was also an agricultural reformer who did pioneering work in the study, use, and advocacy of ensilage. His barn at "Oakland Manor" (see Wilde Lake Barn, HO-576) was designated an historic landmark of agricultural engineering in 1976. The agricultural census for 1880 does not reveal anything that would reflect Morris's reformist tendencies, but suggests a diversified farm operation much as Gaither had in 1850, again on a much larger scale than most neighboring



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farmers. After his death in 1886 "Oakland Manor" and all of the livestock and furnishings passed to Katherine Tabb and after her death three years later, to her two daughters. One of them, Katherine V. Tabb, acquired the interest of her sister in 1896 and shortly afterward married Francis Morris Lee of Virginia. The Lees held a reception and supper at "Oakland Manor" in November, 1899 for friends from Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, and Virginia. Most interesting about this affair was the description of the house. "The house was tastefully and elaborately decorated throughout and masses of winter ferns and gorgeous palms relieved with vari-colored autumn leaves and grasses were banked artistically in the corners of the drawing rooms, the conservatory, and in the hallways, the richness of the latter being greatly enhanced by wreaths of evergreen, with holly entwined. The two largest parlors, given over to the dancers, were particularly handsome, a rich chandelier holding eighteen white wax lights, and pendant between the two, lent a soft elegance to the decorations. The supper room was a marvel wrought in maiden hair ferns, tall and stately vases, white chrysanthemums and colonial candelabra." (13)

In addition to a view of the temporary decoration and function of a house that was always meant in part for entertaining, the article suggests that, despite the wealth of the owners, "Oakland Manor" still did not have electricity or gas. By 1899 either one could have been produced on the farm. The mention of the conservatory suggests the possibility that the changes shown in the 1867 perspective were made, but there is another possible explanation. A 1907 photograph of the south elevation of the house shows a one-story frame addition on the west side of the main block, in the re-entrant angle with the west wing. This addition had numerous large windows with two-over-two sash and probably was built as a conservatory at the end of the double parlor. This photograph is of interest, too, because it shows the south porch, which was two stories, with colossal Doric columns and a full entablature. Railings on both stories had turned balusters. A photograph of the north elevation, taken at the same time, shows a one-story porch across the front of the main block, with a porte cochere in the center. This also had Doric columns, but the balusters between appear to be square. The photos also show cornices placed over the first-story windows on both elevations of the wings and over the second-story windows of the north elevation of the main block. Neither the porches, the conservatory, nor the cornices survive. Given the Colonial Revival character of the details, they were probably added by the Lees in the 1890s. (14)

"Oakland Manor" was sold to John V. L. Findlay, Jr. in 1906 and the racetrack was quickly ploughed up and that land put under cultivation. Findlay was born in Baltimore c. 1878, the son of a congressman, graduated from Princeton, joined the Baltimore bar, and married Louise O'Donnell, from an old Baltimore family. The Baltimore Sun reported that Findlay began restocking the farm with cattle and poultry, suggesting that the Lee family had eventually removed such livestock from the farm. Findlay defaulted on his mortgage and "Oakland Manor" was offered for sale in 1923. The 350 acres did not include the mill property, but the sale ad noted that, "among the improvements on said property are: The colonial manor house containing 15 rooms, three baths, 120 x 60 feet, built of stucco over stone, gardener's house containing 8 rooms and a tenant house containing 8 rooms. The manor house and gardener's house being equipped throughout with electricity . . . . Water is furnished by a ram from a nearby stream running through the property. Also a stone stable 100 x 26 feet, now used as a garage, cow stable 60 x 20 feet, stalls for 20 cows, dairy, smoke house and other necessary out-buildings . . . ." Two years later the farm was again auctioned, and it changed hands several times until being purchased by Alpheus H. Ryan. (15)

Francis Morris's granddaughter, Florence Bailliere Brand, stated that the mansion stood vacant until the Ryans bought it. Ryan was from Washington and ran a stock farm here, specializing in white-face Angus cattle. It was the Ryans who were responsible for the insensitive alterations to the historic house. The Baltimore Sun noted in 1940: "the house, like the farm, has undergone a complete transformation at the hands of its present owners. The yellow plaster which covered the exterior has been ripped off to disclose the fine stonework, with arched recesses for windows and doors. The huge two-story pillared porch has been torn down and replaced by an open stone terrace, with climbing roses trained on the balustrade . . . . Interior partitions were removed to make a long hall running the entire width of the central part of the house and to form a drawing room of identical dimensions opening on the terrace. At one end the stone foundations of a demolished greenhouse now form the walls of a rose garden."

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Mirror image staircases were added to each end of the new hall, and most of the woodwork was replaced. The architect responsible for these alterations is not recorded. (16)

The Ryans sold "Oakland Manor" to Miriam J. Keller in 1949, and she moved into the main house. She had lived in Washington, D. C., where she managed properties she owned there, and she continued this management from a distance. Keller's son-in-law, Cdr. Allen M. Dame, was in the Navy and enrolled in a post-graduate program at the Naval Academy at the same time that she bought "Oakland," so she built a frame addition onto the back of the old washhouse for her daughter and son-in-law to live in. In 1955 Ms. Keller renovated the overseer's house, the stone building next to it often referred to as a slave quarter, and the blacksmith shop for housing. She then moved into the overseer's house and sold the mansion and five acres to Sigmund and Rose Price. In the 1960s the manor house was converted to a health spa specializing in weight loss, and the wash house became a dwelling for the owners, Sigmund and Rose Price. The Rouse Company acquired most of the farmland and buildings in 1963 and the five acres with the mansion in 1966 and "Oakland Manor" in turn became a satellite campus for Antioch College, then Dag Hammarskjold College, then offices for the American Red Cross, and since 1988 has been owned by the Columbia Association and is available to rent for weddings and other activities. This last conversion required the construction of a commercial kitchen on the south side of the west wing, resulting in some additional loss of historic fabric. (17)

### Notes:

1.) These tracts have recently been platted by Steven Ralston. I am indebted to Joetta Cramm for providing me with copies of Mr. Ralston's work. Land Patents, Western Shore, IC #G-508, Maryland State Archives. J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881), pp. 292, 719. The early history of "Oakland Manor" recorded by others is rather confused, apparently because of conjecture and assumptions that were based on incomplete research. J. D. Warfield's history of the property is very tangled, claiming it was owned by Luther Martin, and Celia Holland, among others, perpetuated this error. J. D. Warfield, *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland* (Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock, 1905), p. 395. Celia M. Holland, *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland* (Author, 1987), pp. 361-63. Later researchers have only partially straightened it out, though continuing to assume that "Oakland" was inherited from the Ridgelys. Capt. Charles Ridgely Estate, Will 4-450, Baltimore Register of Wills, Maryland State Archives. Diehlman-Hayward File, Maryland Historical Society. See Baltimore Federal Gazette, 6 August 1808, p. 3, col. 2-3.

2.) Federal Direct Tax, 1798, Index for Anne Arundel County at Maryland State Archives.

3.) Maryland State Chancery Court Papers, case 2043, Richard and Polly Gittings, et al, v. Charles Ridgely, et al. Maryland State Archives, S 512-3-2111. Michael Trostel, "A Report for the Adaptive Uses of Oakland," typescript, 1985. Baltimore American and Commercial Daily Advertiser, 11 July 1817, p. 3, col. 1, noted in Diehlman-Hayward File, Maryland Historical Society. See also Baltimore American and Commercial Daily Advertiser, 22 July 1817, p. 3, col. 3. Lerew's last name was alternately spelled "Larew," though he seems to have used the double "e" variant. At least one author offers "Larue" as another alternative, though the source of this possible spelling is not known. "Oakland Manor," Registrar, Maryland Historical Society. Some of these drawings were first published in Mills Lane, *Architecture of the Old South: Maryland*, p. 112. Henry P. Goddard, "At Old Oakland Manor; A Relic of Other Days," Baltimore Sun, 1 September 1907, p. 3, cols. 3-6. Mary Ellen Hayward and Frank R. Shivers, eds., *The Architecture of Baltimore: An Illustrated History* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), p. 46.

4.) John M. Bryan, "Robert Mills: Education and Early Drawings," in Robert Mills, Architect, edited by John M. Bryan (Washington, DC: The AIA Press, 1989), pp. 1-32.

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- 5.) Talbot Hamlin, Benjamin Henry Latrobe (New York: Oxford University Press, 1955). Michael W. Fazio and Patrick A. Snadon, *The Domestic Architecture of Benjamin Henry Latrobe* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006). Robert Alexander, "The Young Professional in Philadelphia and Baltimore: 1808-20," in Robert Mills, *Architect*, edited by John M. Bryan (Washington, DC: The AIA Press, 1989), pp. 35-72. Rhondri Windsor Liscombe, *Altogether American: Robert Mills, Architect and Engineer, 1781-1855*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994). Mary Ellen Hayward and Frank R. Shivers, eds., *The Architecture of Baltimore: An Illustrated History* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), pp. 46, 87.
- 6.) John M. Bryan, "Robert Mills: Education and Early Drawings," in Robert Mills, *Architect*, edited by John M. Bryan (Washington, DC: The AIA Press, 1989), pp. 1-32.
- 7.) *Baltimore American*, 4 May 1815, noted in John McGrain, "Molinography in Maryland," typescript, Maryland Historical Society, p. 73. Additional information on "Oakland Mill" can be found here. Howard County Land Records, WSG 8-398. Trostel, "A Report for the Adaptive Uses of Oakland."
- 8.) Maryland State Chancery Court Papers, case 2043. Diehlman-Hayward File, Maryland Historical Society.
- 9.) Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County*, pp. 890, 931. Diehlman-Hayward File, Maryland Historical Society. *Baltimore American*, 21 September 1838, p. 3, col. 7. Partially quoted in Trostel, "A Report for the Adaptive Uses of Oakland."
- 10.) *Baltimore American*, 21 September 1838, p. 3, col. 7.
- 11.) Matchett's *Baltimore Director*, 1837. Trostel, "A Report for the Adaptive Uses of Oakland." *Baltimore American*, 20 September 1875, p. 4, col. 6. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Agricultural Census*, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Agricultural Census*, District 5, Howard County, Maryland, 1860. Thomas A. Reinhart, "A Study of Blandair Farm in Howard County, Maryland," Masters Thesis, George Washington University, 2003, p. 23. Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, pp. 363-64. Henry P. Goddard, "At Old Oakland Manor; A Relic of Other Days," *Baltimore Sun*, 1 September 1907, p. 3, cols. 3-6.
- 12.) Goddard, "At Old Oakland Manor." *Baltimore Sun*, 1 September 1907, p. 3. Nicholas DiBrino, *The History of the Morris Park Racecourse and the Morris Family*. (Bronx Co., NY: 1977), pp 42-43. Joetta Cramm, *Howard County: A Pictorial History* rev. ed. (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 2004), p. 82.
- 13.) DiBrino, *Morris Park Racecourse*, pp 42-43. Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, pp. 364-65. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Agricultural Census*, District 5, Howard County, Maryland, 1880. Francis Morris Estate, Will TBH 2-593, Register of Wills, Howard County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives. *Ellicott City Times*, 18 November 1899, p. 3, col. 1.
- 14.) Goddard, "At Old Oakland Manor." A similar, undated view is in Cramm, *Howard County: A Pictorial History*, p. 215.
- 15.) Goddard, "At Old Oakland Manor." *Ellicott City Times*, 14 June 1923, p. 4, col. 3. Francis Morris's granddaughter, Florence Bailliere Brand, wrote that Supreme Court Justice Willis Van Devanter purchased "Oakland Manor" from her uncle. Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, p. 366. The deeds do not bear this out, however. Apparently, the Justice bought a frame house that had been part of the manor. See "A Renaissance Noted in Old Howard County." *Baltimore Sun*, 9 June 1940, sec. 1, p. 3, col. 1.
- 16.) "A Renaissance Noted in Old Howard County."

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No HO-32

Name Oakland Manor

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 9

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17.) Baltimore Sun, 15 November 1997, in Howard County Historical Society VF. Holland, Old Homes and Families, pp. 367-70. H. Elizabeth Dame (nee Keller), Los Altos, CA, to Columbia Archives, personal correspondence, 2 November 2004.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HO-32

See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 3.839 acres

Acreage of historical setting 533 acres

Quadrangle name Savage

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of all of the property on map 30, p. 308, which encompasses all of the historic structures.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Ken Short

organization Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 8/21/2008

street and number 3430 Courthouse Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

Oakland Manor (HO-32)  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
American National Red Cross/Fed. Corp.	Columbia Park & Recreation Association, Inc./MD Corp.	6.30.1988	1856-224	Deed - fee simple	\$185,000	?	Lot 1 on Columbia Town Center plat Sec. 7, Area 7, p. F-2
Howard Research & Development Corp./MC Corp. Columbia Service Properties, Inc.	American National Red Cross/Fed. Corp.	12.20.1977	862-29	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	?	Lot 1 on Columbia Town Center plat Sec. 7, Area 7, p. F-2 (no previous reference)
Howard Research & Development Corp./MD Corp.	Columbia Service Properties, Inc./MD Corp.	10.20.1967	476-552	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	1. 1.213 A 2. 5.172 A 3. 1.001 A	
Oakland Manor, Inc./MD Corp.	Howard Research & Development Corp./MD Corp.	8.26.1966	WHH 458-579	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	5.172 A	Is exception 1 in deed 5.4.1963, 399-716 2
Rose Price Elliott Perlin/Howard Co.	Oakland Manor, Inc./MD Corp.	3.7.1958	RHM 311-170	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	5.15 A	2
Bernard F. Goldberg/atty./Howard	Rose Price Elliott Perlin/Howard Co.	3.7.1958	RHM 311-167	Deed - fee simple	\$65,000	5.15 A	Mortgage fr. Price to Keller Equity 5136 Auction 8.17.1957 2
Miriam J. Keller, divorced/Howard	Sigmund Lewis & Rose Price (H/W)/?	9.27.1956	RHM 289-1	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	5.15 A	2
Mercantile Trust Co. of Balto./MD Corp. exec, of Milton W. Bosley/Howard	Miriam J. Keller/?	8.4.1949	MWB 212-161	Deed - fee simple	\$72,500	A. 379.6 A Oakland Manor Farm B. Millseat - ?	MWB d. 3.18.1949 Will RLP 10-106 Sale 4.29.1949 to Walter J. McCauley. Keller is substitute. 2
James D. & Bertha M. Brown, Jr. (H/W)/Howard	Milton W. Bosley/?	10.15.1948	MWB 206-366	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	A.379.6 A B.?	Reserving 100 A of sod to be cut by Ryan 2
Alpheus H. & Betty G. Ryan (H/W)/Howard	James D. & Bertha M. Brown, Jr. (H/W)/?	10.15.1948	MWB 206-363	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	A. 379.6 A B. ?	2
Richard D. Biggs, trustee/Balto. City	Alpheus H. Ryan/?	11.21.1934	BM Jr. 150-258	Deed - fee simple	\$15,000	A. 350-2-9 ARP B. ?	Equity 3057 Robert Biggs v. Helen Clark

Oakland Map (HO-32)  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
CHAIN OF TITLE

2

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
							<i>et al</i> Robert Biggs d. 2.25.1933 Private sale 10.16.1931
R. Bennett Darnall, atty/?	Garnett Y. Clark Robert Biggs/?	1.28.1926	HBN 126-87	Deed - fee simple	\$1.00	A. 350-2-9 ARP B. ? C. 1-0-20 ARP	Public sale 1.20.1925 Equity 2642 Default on mortgage Sold to Henry G. Green Grantees are substitutes
R. Bennett Darnall, atty/?	John C. Stafford/?	9.26.1923	HBN 119-152	Deed - fee simple	\$23,500	A. 350-2-9 ARP B. millseat-? C. 1-0-20 ARP	Public sale 7.10.1923 Default on mortgage
Katherine V. & Frank M. Lee (H/W)/Howard	John V. L. Findlay, Jr./Balto. City	7.3.1906	WWLC 82-283	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	A. 350-2-9 ARP B. ? C. 1-0-20 ARP	K. V. Tabb now K. V. Lee
Evelina M. & Frederick A. Balliere (H/W)/Howard	Katherine V. Tabb	5.22.1896	ACR 65-451	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	A. 350-2-9 ARP B. ? C. 1-0-20 ARP	K. V. Tabb. Dec'd 5.30.1889 Daughters Evelina & K. V. Tabb to partition the property p/o Oakland Francis Morris is father of K. V. Tabb - sold her B. See also ACR 65-454
Philip Tabb/Oakland/Howard	Evelina M. Balliere Katherine V. Tabb/both of Oakland, Howard	11.29.1889	JHO 55-258	Deed - indenture	\$1.00	?	Philip Tabb is in N.Y.
Francis Morris, Oakland/Howard Co.	Kate V. Tabb, wf of Philip/?	Written 6.16.1885 Probated 4.16.1886	Wills TBH 2-593	Bequest	-	?	All of "Oakland"
Philip & Katherine V. Tabb (H/W)/NYC	Francis Morris/Westchester, NY	4.29.1874	33-516	Deed - Indenture Fee simple	\$85,000	1.Oakland Mills 12-2-6 ARP 2. 5A	(no previous reference)

2

Oakland Manor (HO-32)  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
CHAIN OF TITLE

3

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
						3. 0-2-14 ARP 4. 545-0-13 ARP minus 5-2-3 ARP that is the mill seat & is in 1), 2), & 3) 5. 36A 6. 2-1-8 ARP 7. 10-0-148 ARP 8. 175 A (4 - 8 minus 30- 1/2 A) 9. 51 A 10. 300 A 11. 281 A	
George R. Gaither & wf. Hannah/Balto. City	Philip Tabb/Howard	10.27.1864	23-418	Deed - indenture Fee simple	\$78,000	1. Oakland Mills 12-2-6 ARP 2. 5A 3. 0-2-14 ARP 4. 545-0-13 ARP minus 5-2-3 ARP that is the mill seat & is in 1), 2), & 3) 5. 36A 6. 2-1-8 ARP 7. 10-0-148 ARP 8. 175 A (4 - 8 minus 30- 1/2 A) 9. 51 A	Mill seat - Oakland Mills P/o Felicity, Talbotts Resolution Manor, Dorseys Search, Dorseys Search Res.

3



Oakland Mills (HO-32)  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
CHAIN OF TITLE

4

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
						10. 300 A 11. 281 A	
Samuel Brown, Jr./ AA Co.	George R. Gaither/Balto. City	2.25.1843	4-80	Deed - Indenture	\$294	?	"Joseph's Gift" 11
Thomas Oliver & wf. Mary C. (nee Harrison)/AA Co.	George R. Gaither/Balto. City	11.26.1838	AA WSG 23-319	Deed - Indenture	\$2,600	?	Mill seat - Oakland Mills [no previous] 1
Thomas Oliver & wf. Mary C. (nee Harrison)/AA Co.	George R. Gaither/Balto. City	11.26.1838	AA 23-312	Deed - Indenture Fee simple	\$55,459.95	4. 545-0-13 ARP -5-2-3- mill seat 5. 36 A 6. 2-1-8 7. 10-0-148 8. 175 A	Robert Oliver is father of Thomas W side of Columbia turnpike 4-8
Rachel Updegraff	Thomas Oliver	6.28.1830	WSG 15-362				6
Brice W. Howard	Thomas Oliver	12.15.1828	WSG 14-72				8
Robert Oliver/Balto. City	Thomas Oliver/AA Co. s/o Robert	3.3.1827	WSG 12-378	Indenture	L & A & \$10.00	567 A - 16 1/4 A; 1 A; 5 A; 10-0-148 ARP; 36 A; 16-17 A; 37 A; 292 3/4 A; 115-0-46 ARP	"Felicity" 6-8, see 11-483 115 A - see 6-517 5 A - see 11-303
City Bank of Baltimore	Robert Oliver	12.21.1825	WSG 11-483				
Alexander C. Bullitt/Balto. City Allan Thomas/AA Co.	Robert Oliver/Balto. City	9.2.1825	WSG 11-305	Indenture	\$5.00 & other \$ earlier	36 A	1824 Thomas sold to Bullitt deed of trust 5
Charles Sterett Ridgely/AA Co.	Robert Oliver/Balto. City	8.8.1825	WSG 11-301	Indenture	\$500	10-0-148 ARP	See 6-517 7

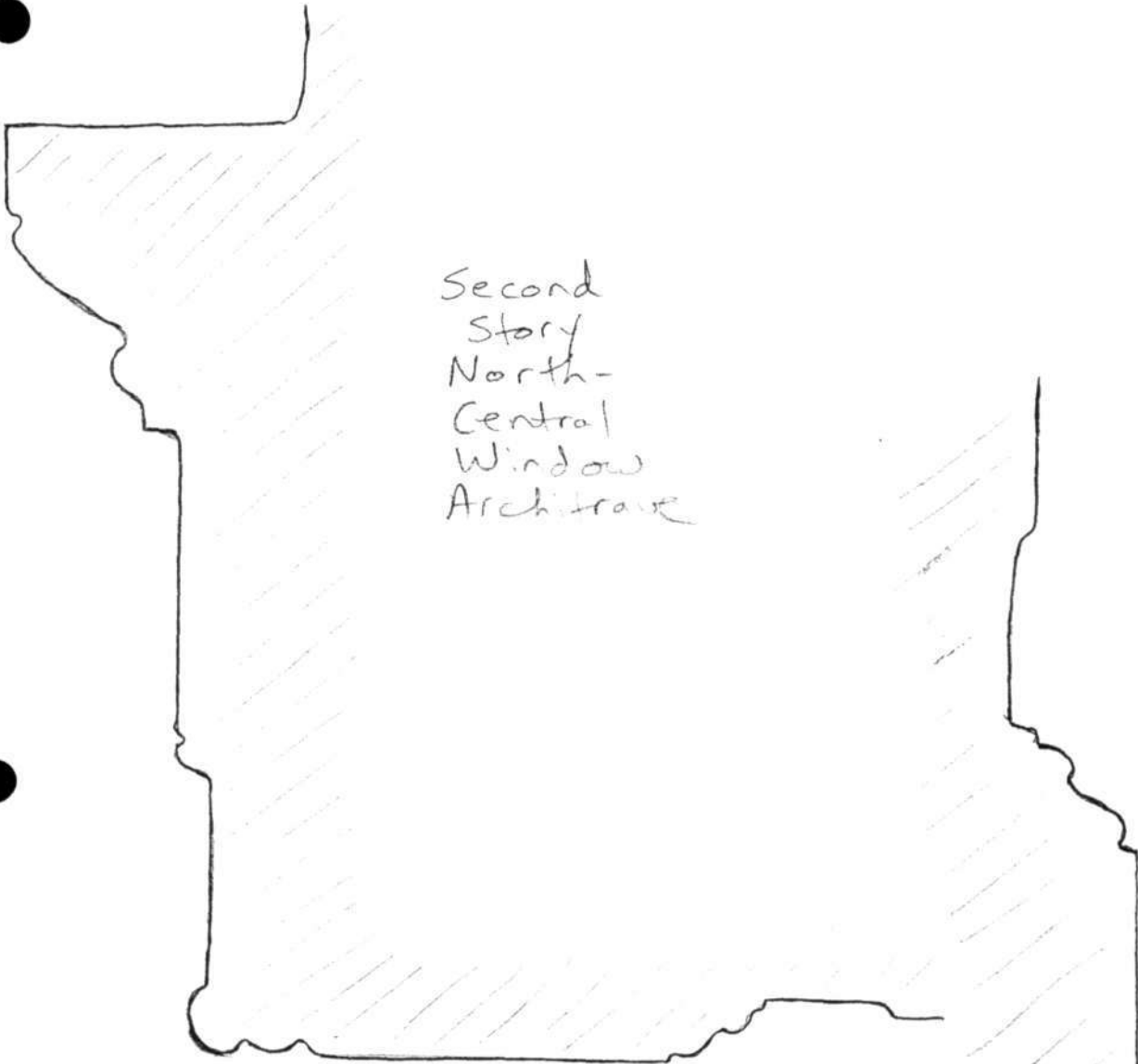
4

Oakland Manor (HO-32)  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
CHAIN OF TITLE

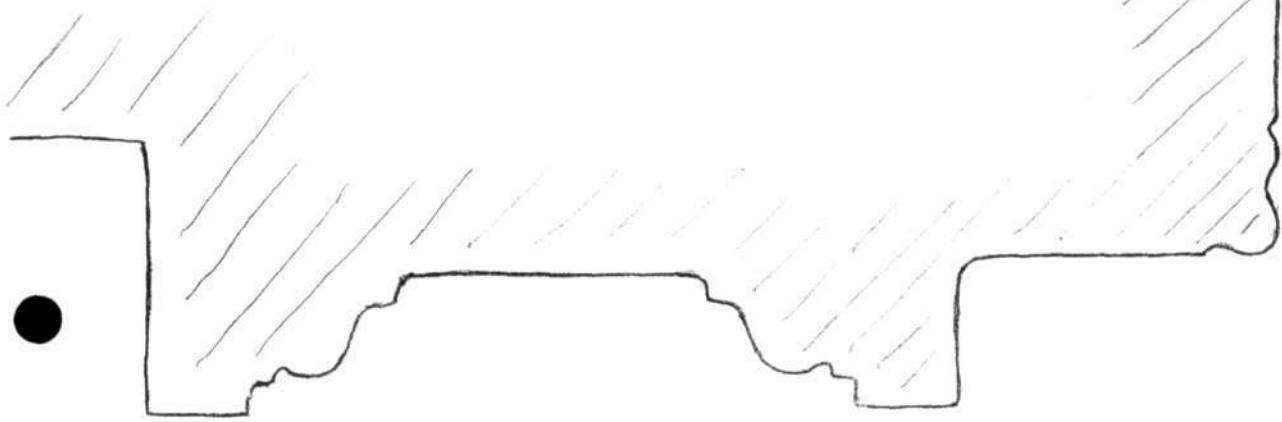
GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Eleanor Dale, et al	Robert Oliver	8.4.1825	WSG 11-303				
Charles Sterett Ridgely s/o Deborah Sterett, late of AA Co. et al, heirs of D. S.	Robert Oliver	7.5.1825	WSG 11-295	Deed - Indenture	\$47,000	A. 567 A -16 1/4 A mill B. 1 A	Chancery Ct. of MD 6.23.1825 Richard & Polly Gittings v. Charles Sterett Ridgely <i>et al</i> 4
Edward Lloyd, Esq., trustee for Joseph H. Nicholson, dec'd. / Balto. Co.	Charles Sterett Ridgely / AA Co.	4.22.1819	WSG 6-517	Indenture - Fee simple	\$6,836.67	115-0-46 ARP	Chancery Court of MD, 1817
Thomas Usher/ Balto. Co., merchant	John Sterrett/ Balto. Co., merchant	6.28.1785	NH 2-311	Indenture	£9,411.5.0	1,696 1/2 A	

1/4 "Oakland" H0-32  
Second Story Mouldings

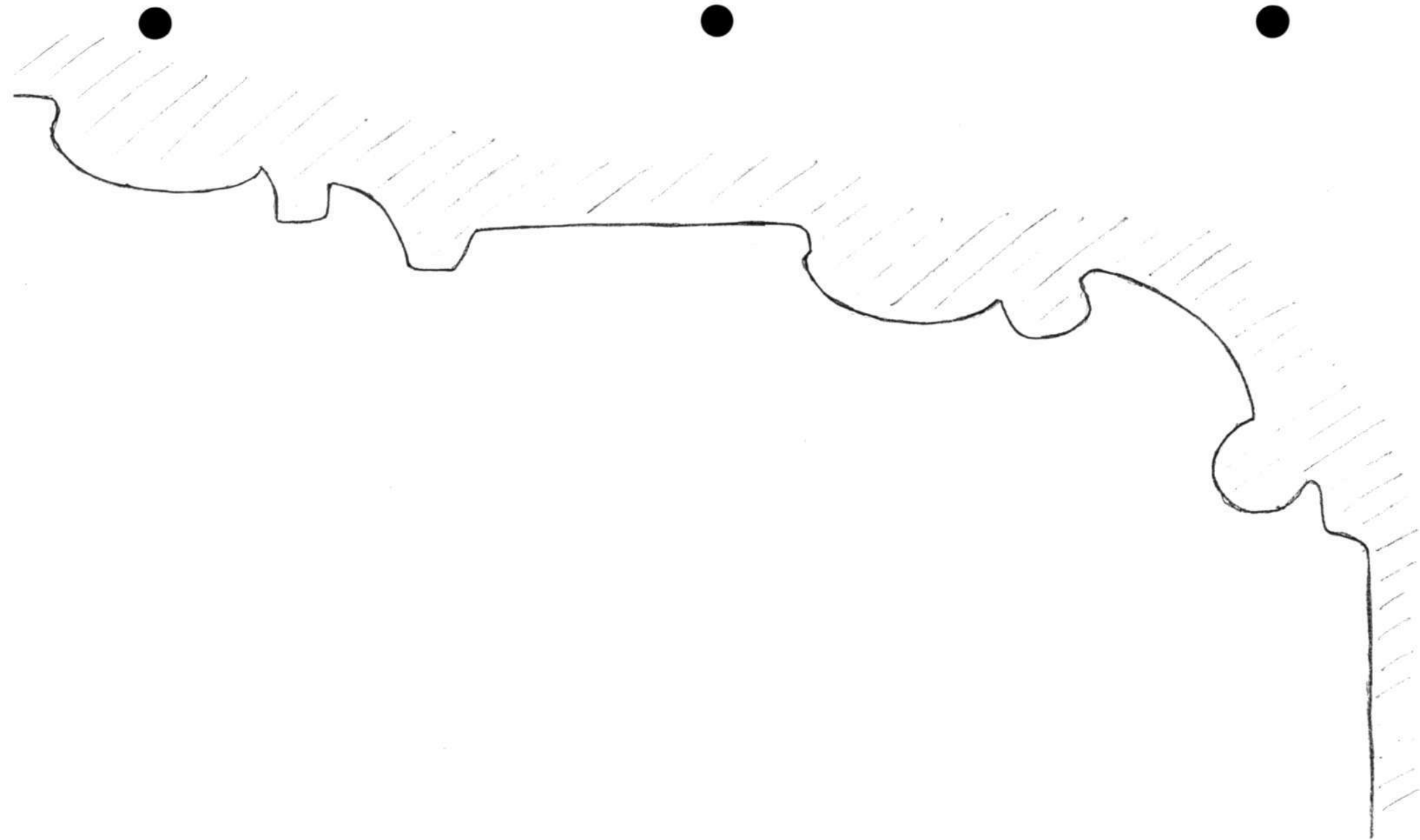
KMS  
3 Oct. '07



Second  
Story  
North-  
Central  
Window  
Architrave



Second Story  
Door Architrave  
& Jamb Panel



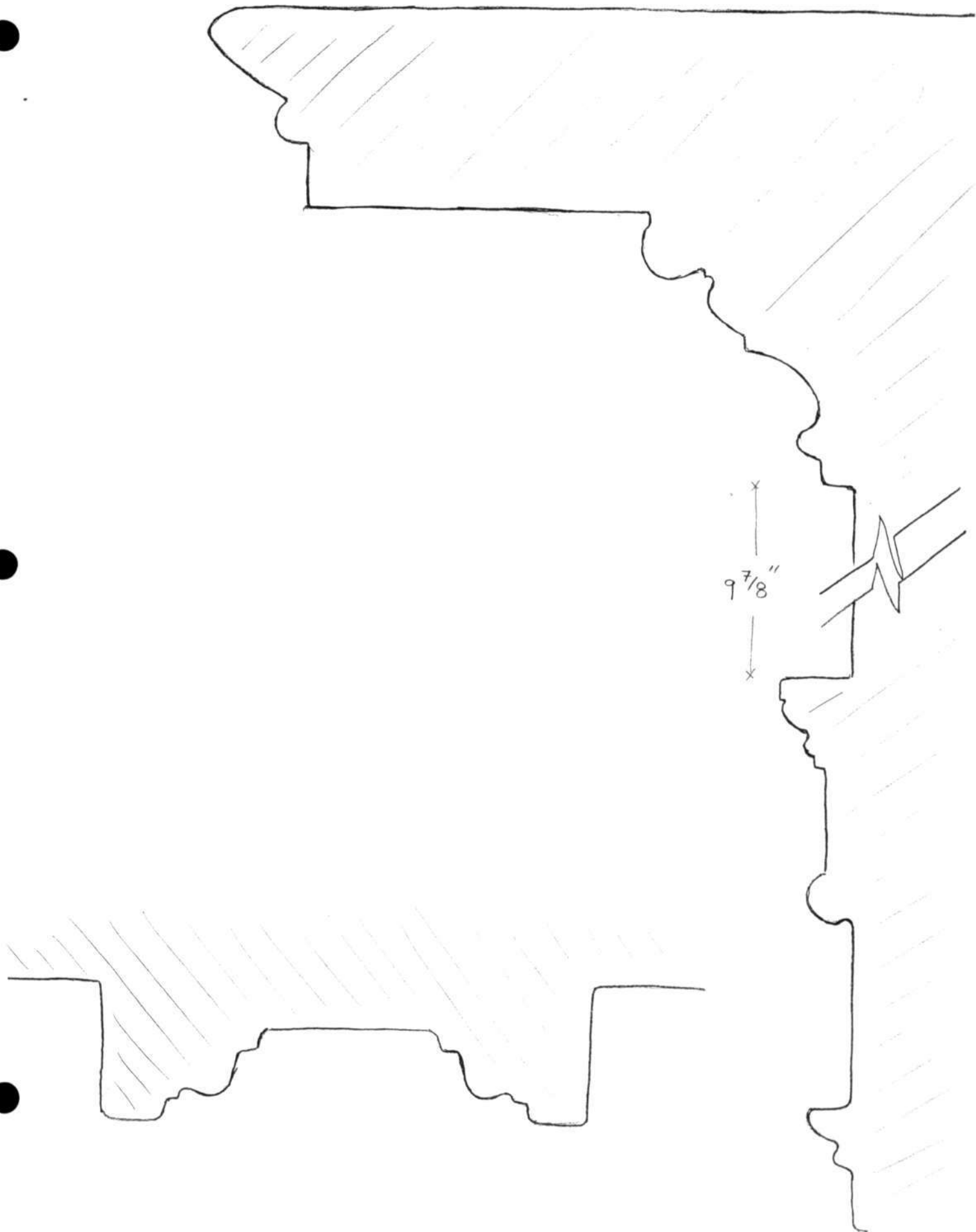
2/4 "Oakland" HO-32  
1/4 Second Story Passage Cornice

KMS  
3 Oct. '07



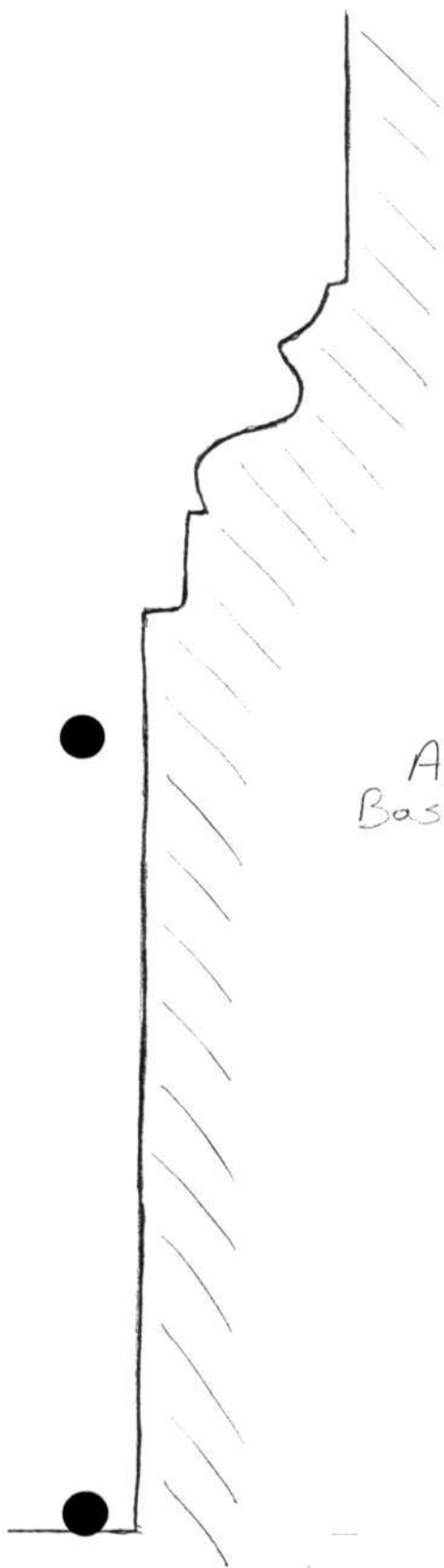
3/4 "Oakland" H0-32  
West Chamber Mantel Mouldings

KMS  
30 Oct. '07



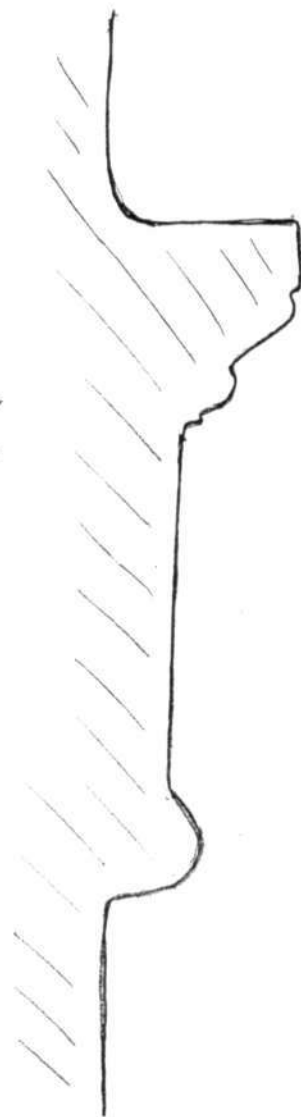
4/4 "Oakland" 40-32  
Moulding Profiles

KMS  
3 Oct. '07



Attic Stair  
Baseboard

E. Wing  
Doorway  
Spring-line  
moulding



HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
North elevation by Abraham Larew, 1810  
Maryland Historical Society



*North front in full Scale one Inch for ten Feet*

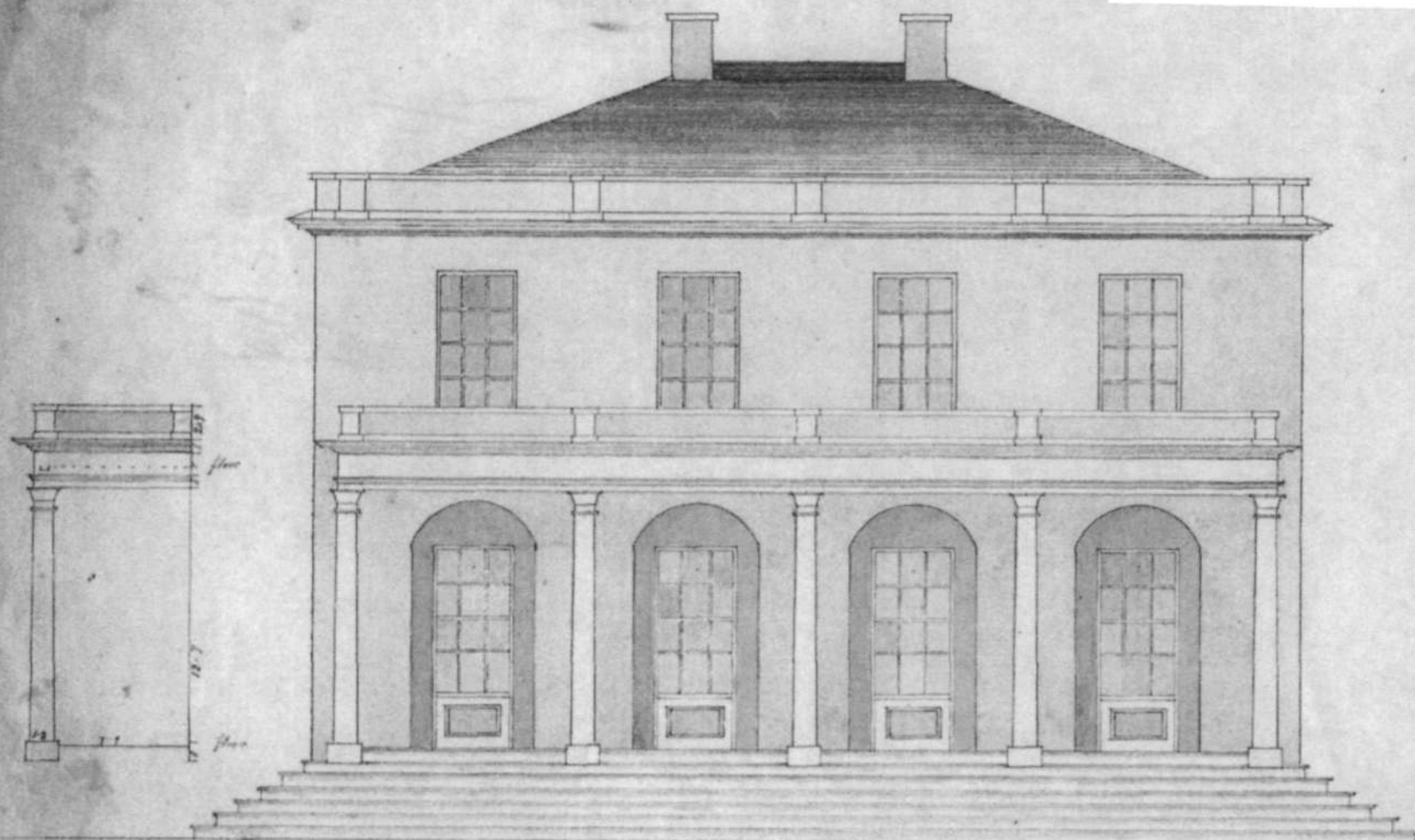
HO-32

Oakland Manor

5430 Vantage Point Road

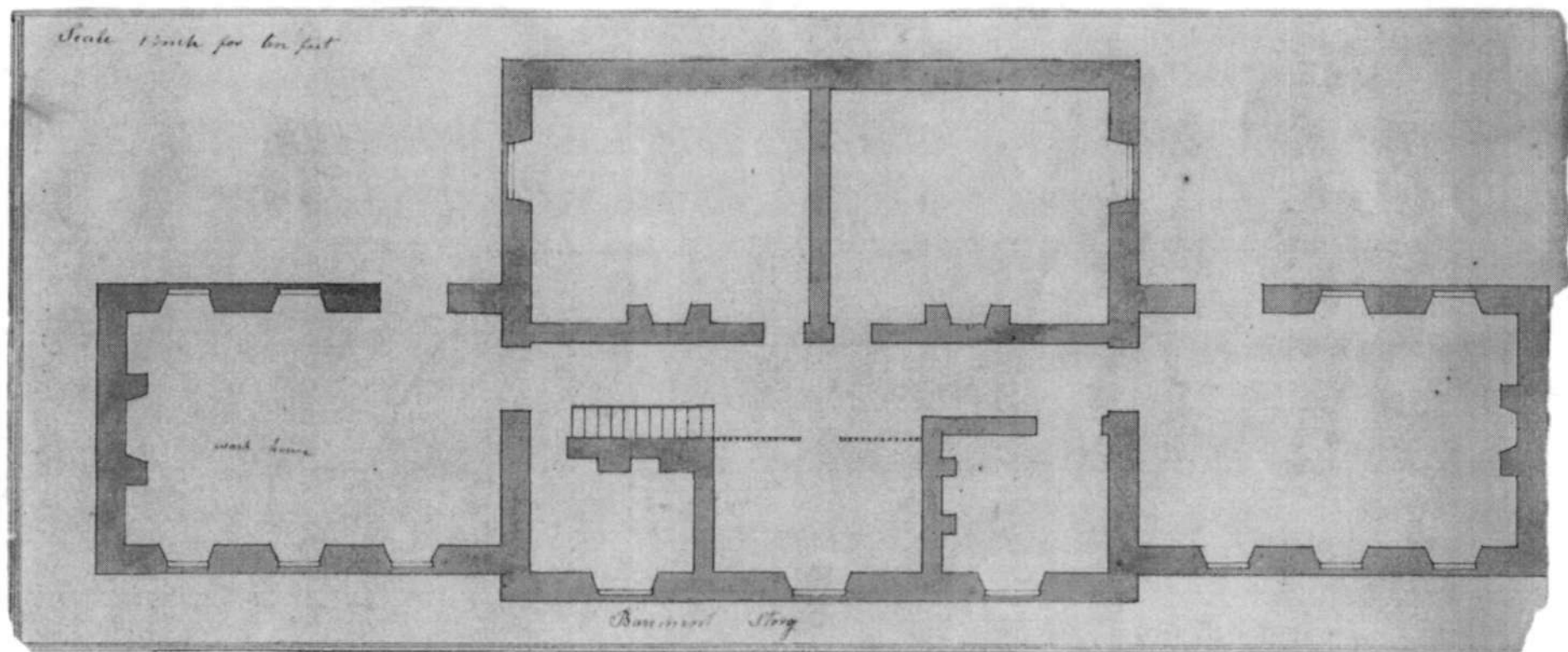
South elevation by Abraham Larew, 1810

Maryland Historical Society



*South Front of Maine House 49 feet*      *Scale 1/2 inch for ten feet*



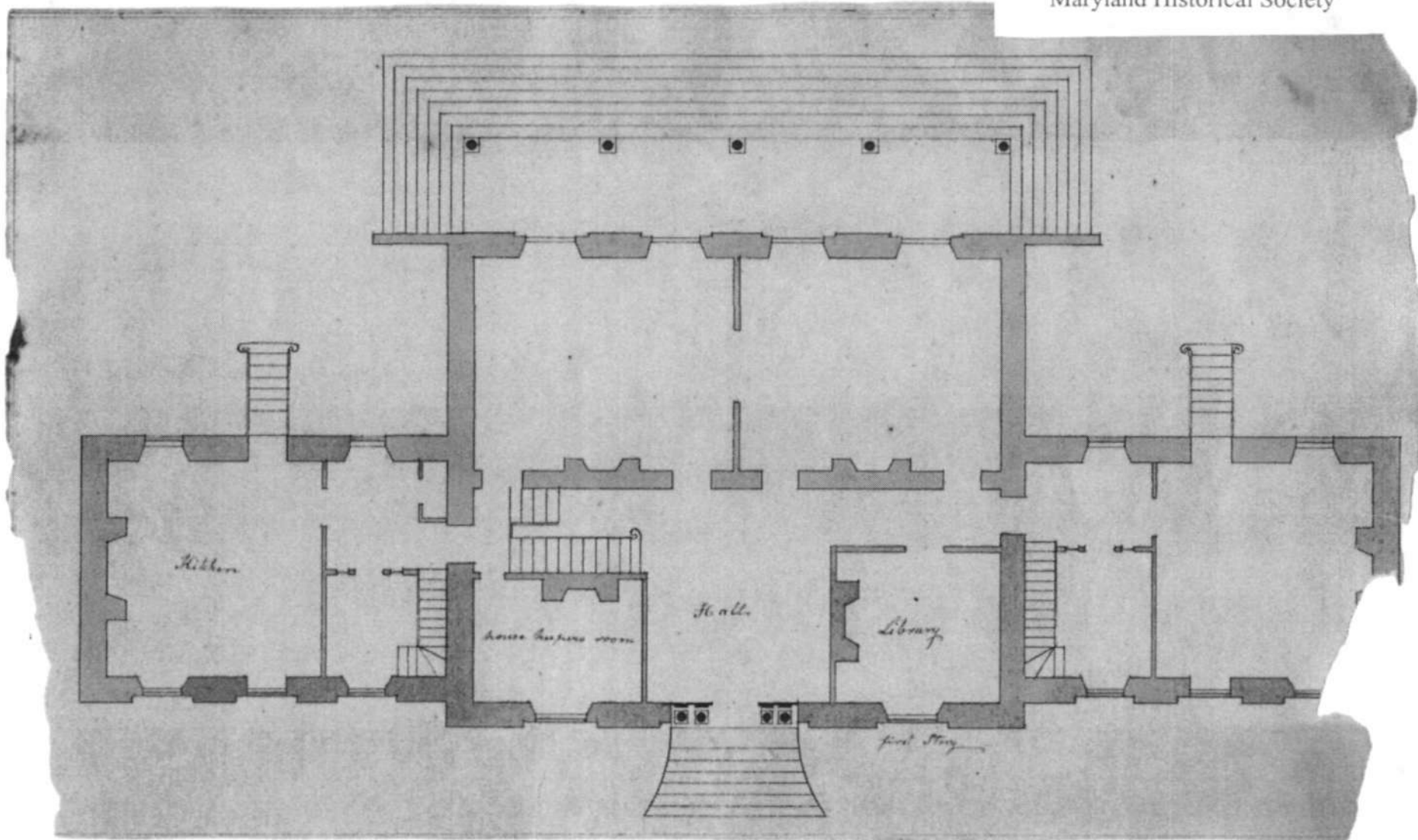


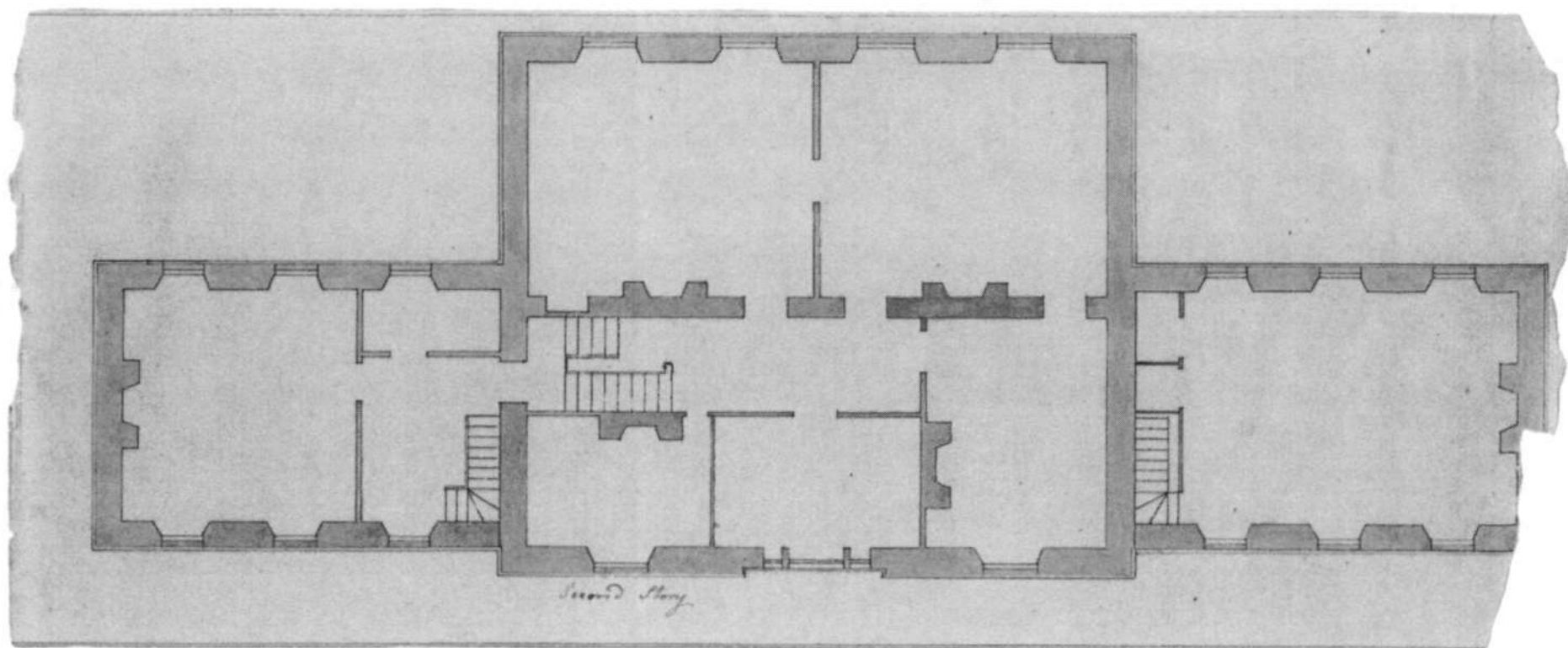
LAREW - OAKLAND MANOR ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING 7

COPY OF ORIGINAL OWNED BY THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. NO REPRODUCTION WITHOUT PERMISSION.

HO-32  
 Oakland Manor  
 5430 Vantage Point Road  
 Basement floor plan,  
 by Abraham Larew, 1810  
 Maryland Historical Society

HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
First floor plan by Abraham Larew, 1810  
Maryland Historical Society





LAREW - OAKLAND MANOR ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING 6

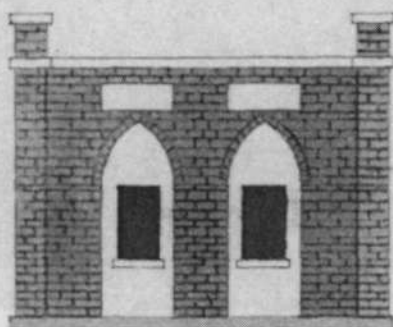
COPY OF ORIGINAL OWNED BY THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. NO REPRODUCTION WITHOUT PERMISSION.

HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Second floor plan by Abraham Larew, 1810  
Maryland Historical Society

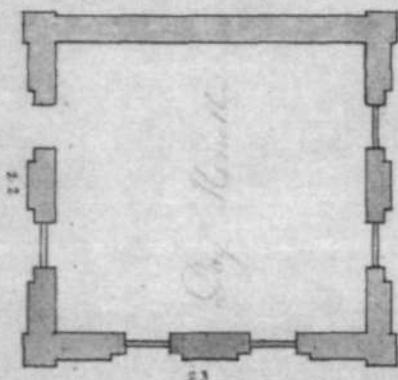
HO-32

Oakland Manor

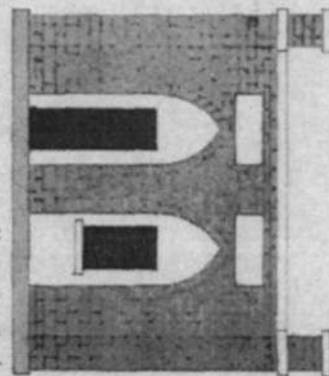
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Dog house plan and elevations  
by Abraham Larew, 1810  
Maryland Historical Society



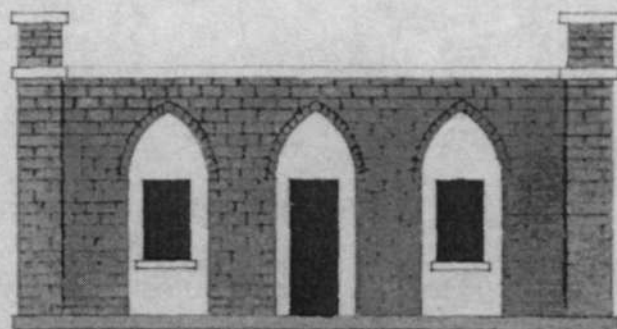
*East front*



23

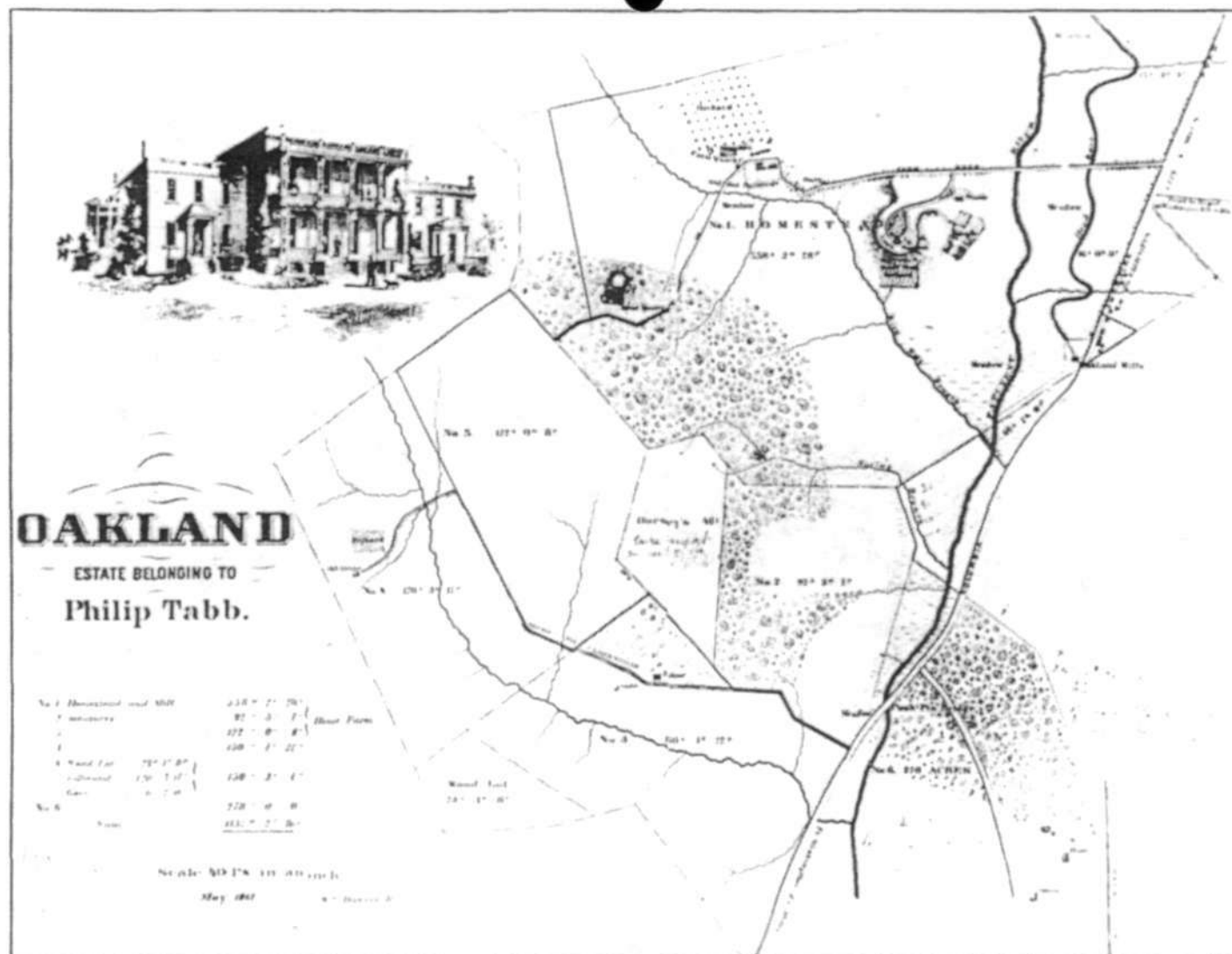


*West front*



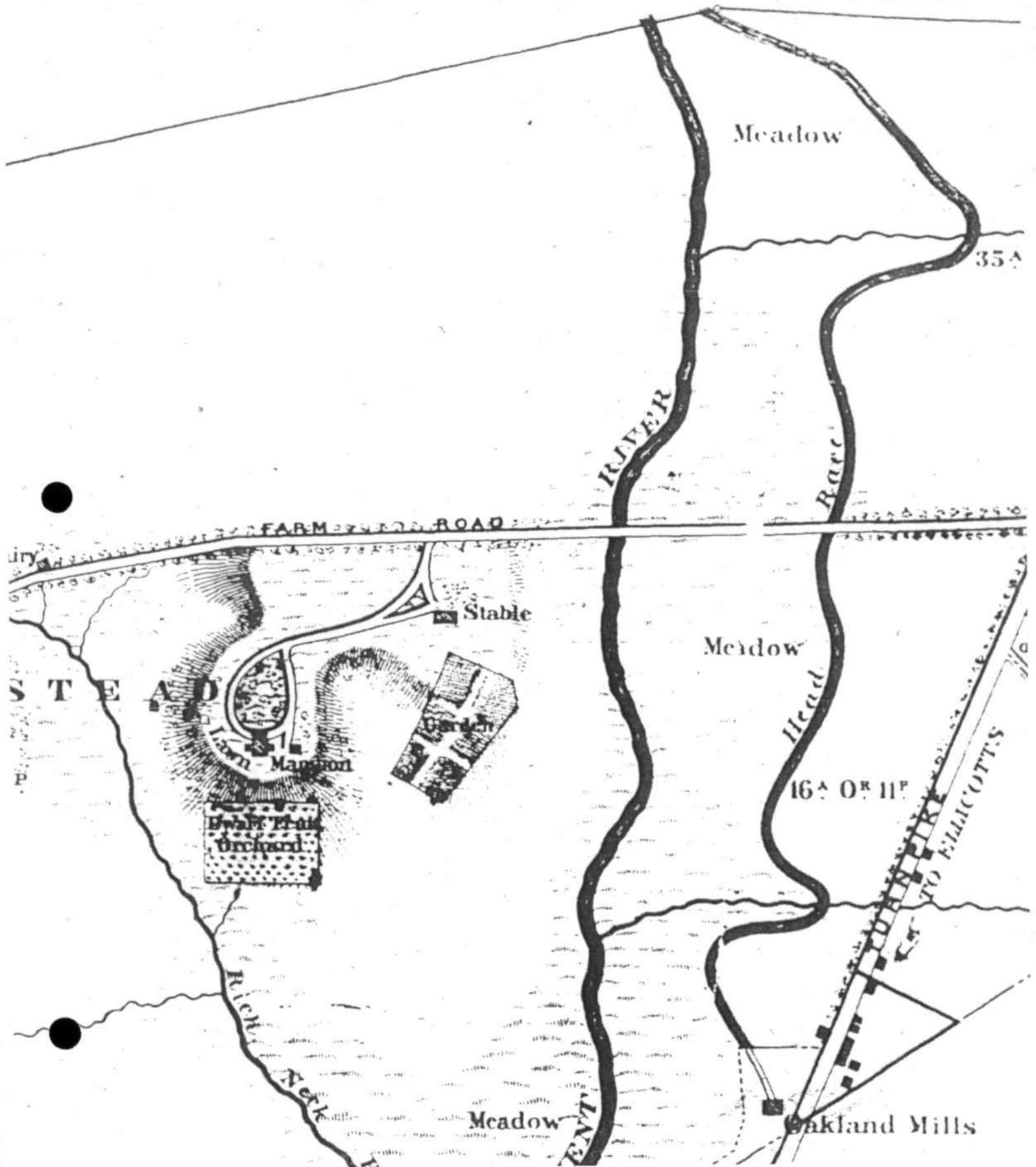
*East or West front*





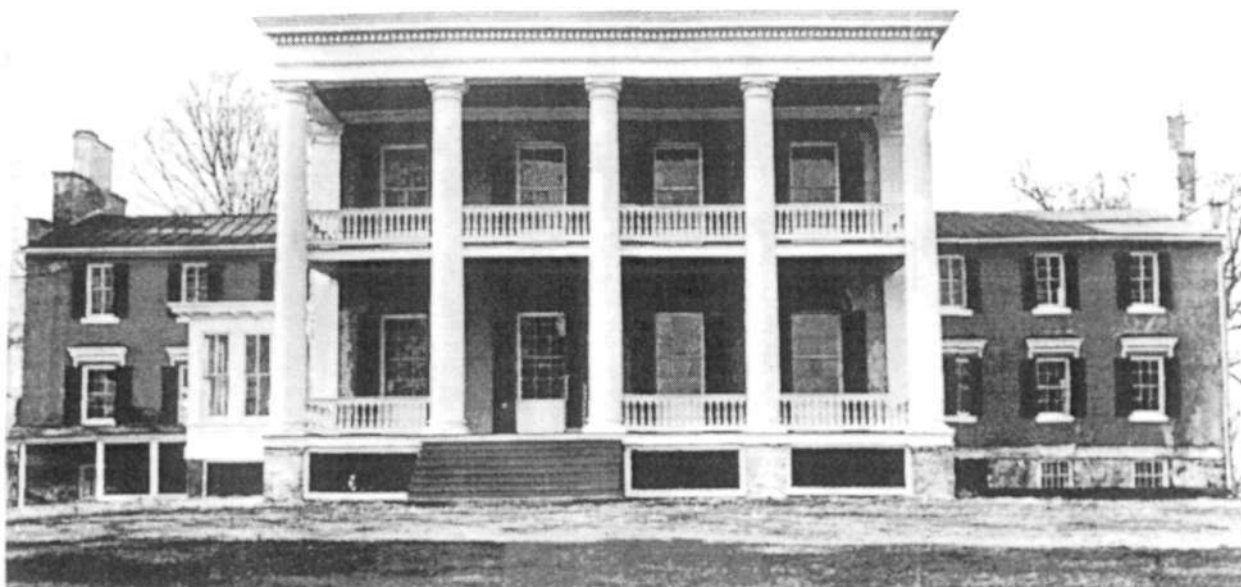
HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Plat of farm, 1867  
Reproduced in Joetta Cramm,  
*Howard County: A Pictorial History*, p. 82.

HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Detail of plat showing mansion, 1867



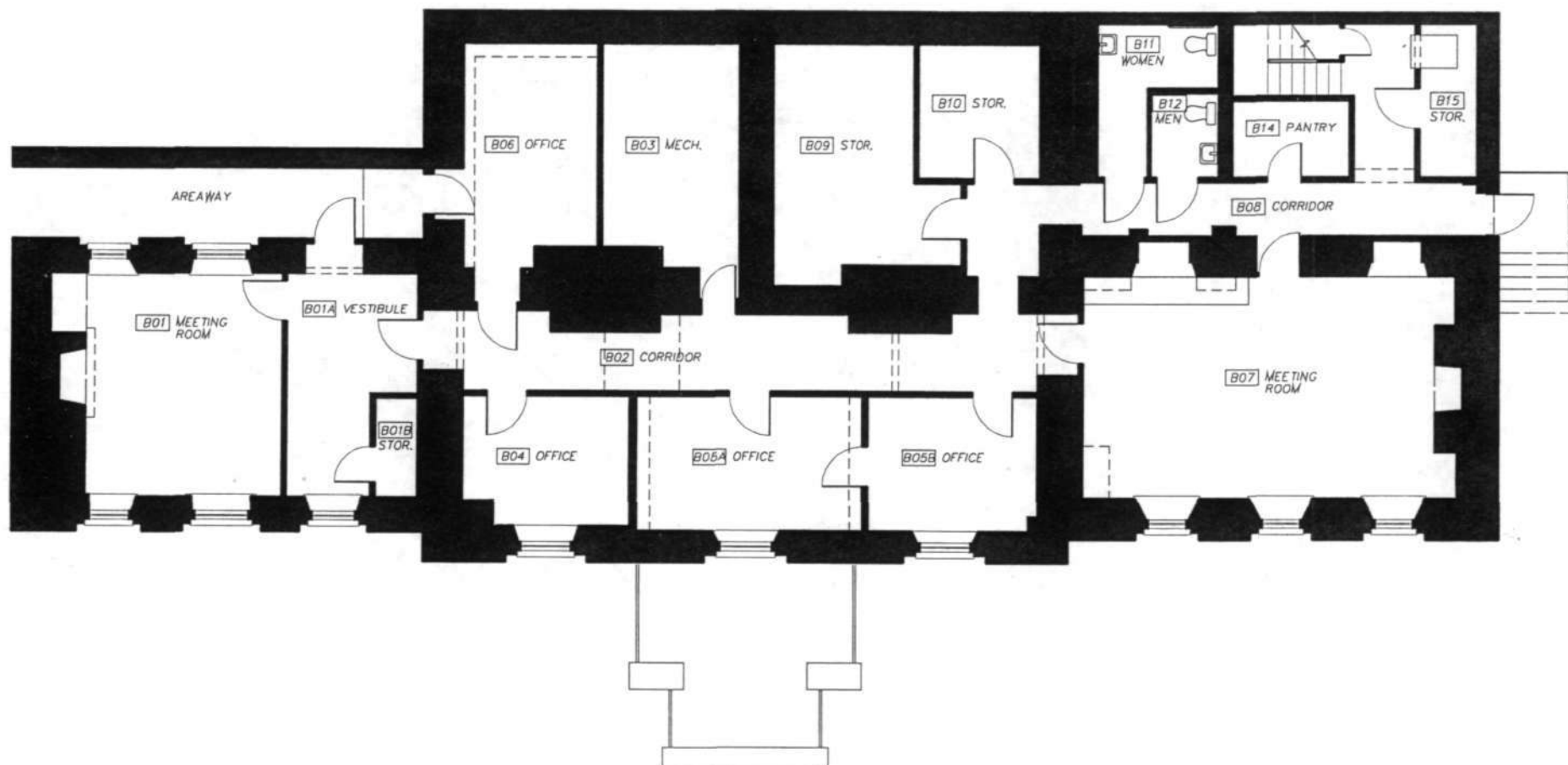


HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
View of house from plat, 1867

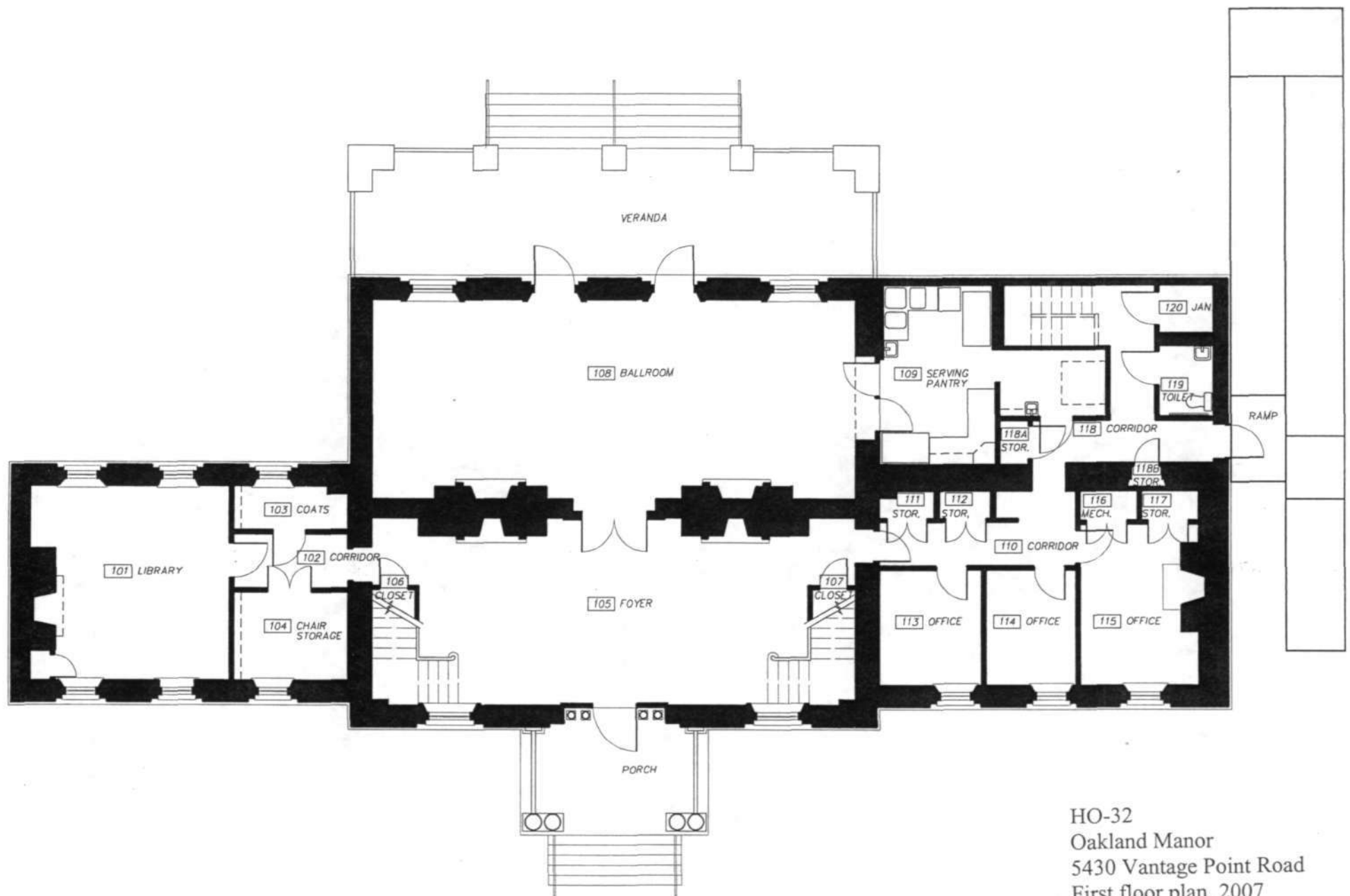


HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Photo, early 20<sup>th</sup> c.  
Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Reproduced in Joetta Cramm,  
*Howard County: A Pictorial History*, p. 215.

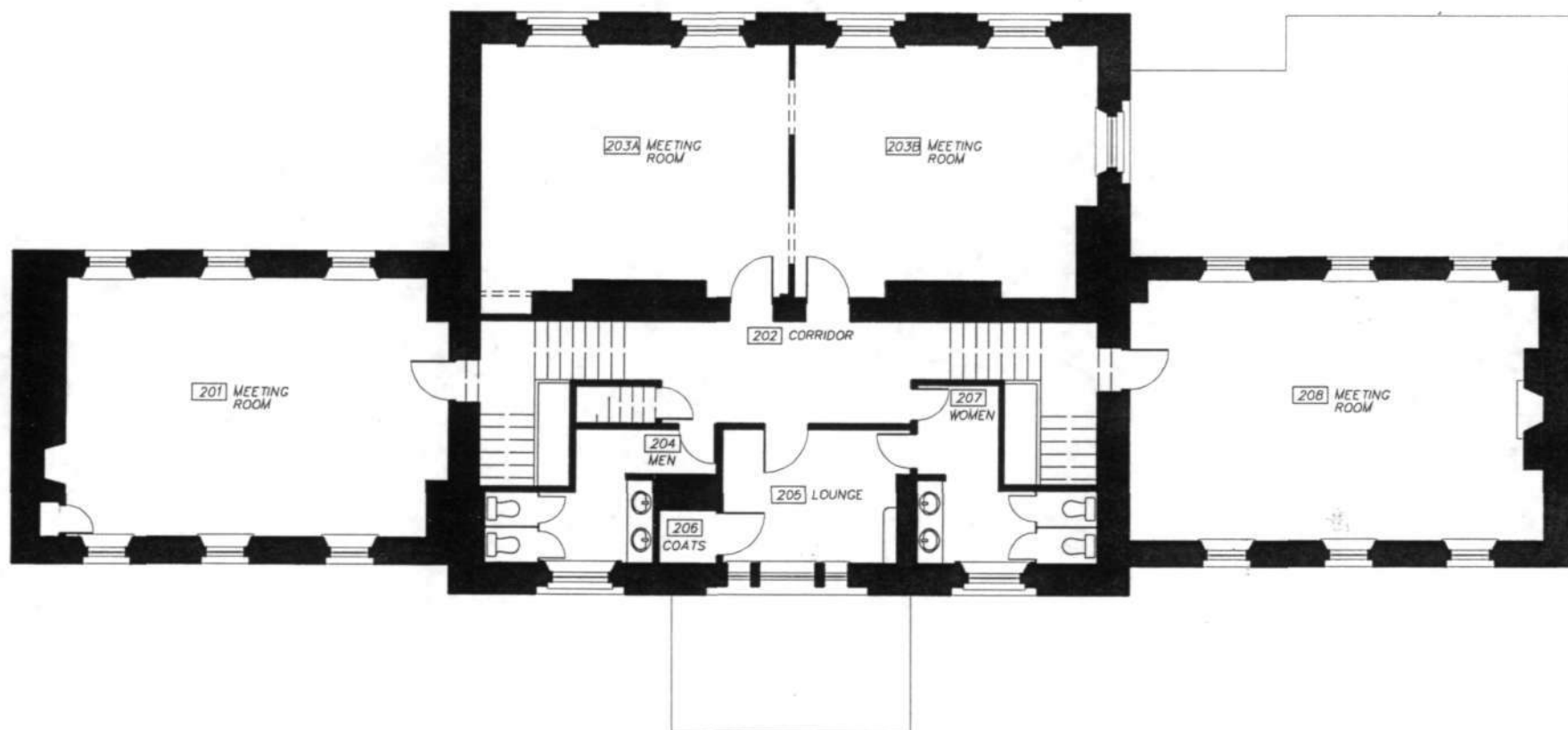




HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Basement floor plan, 2007

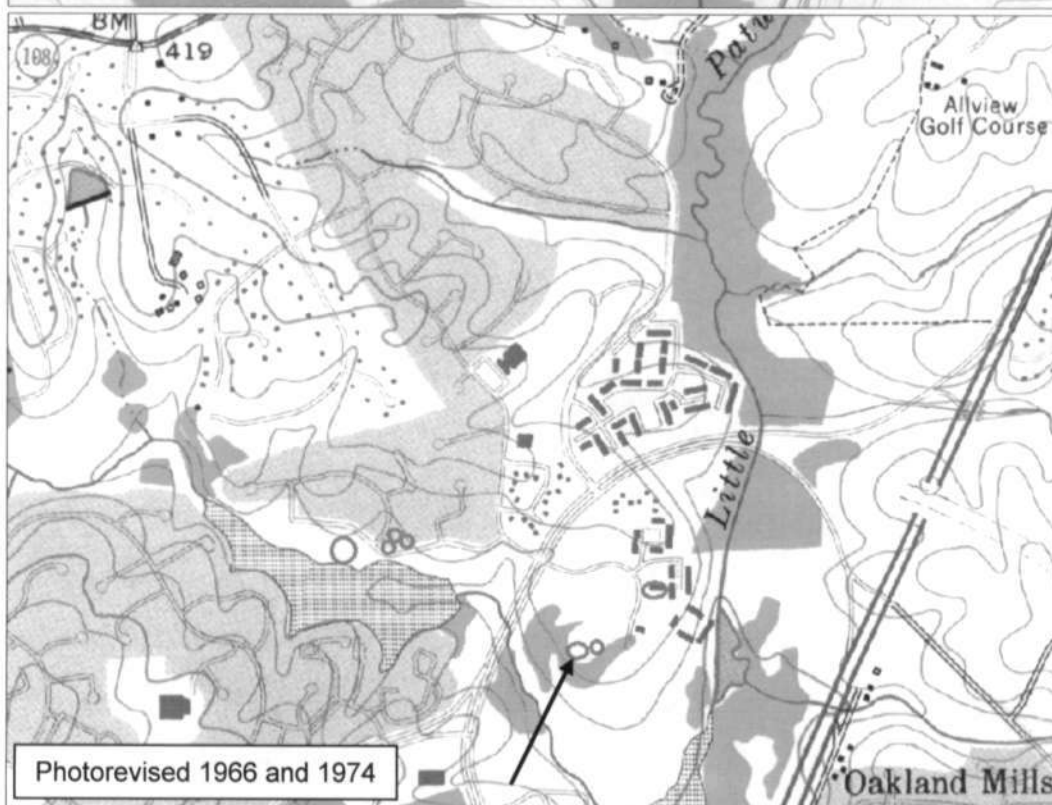
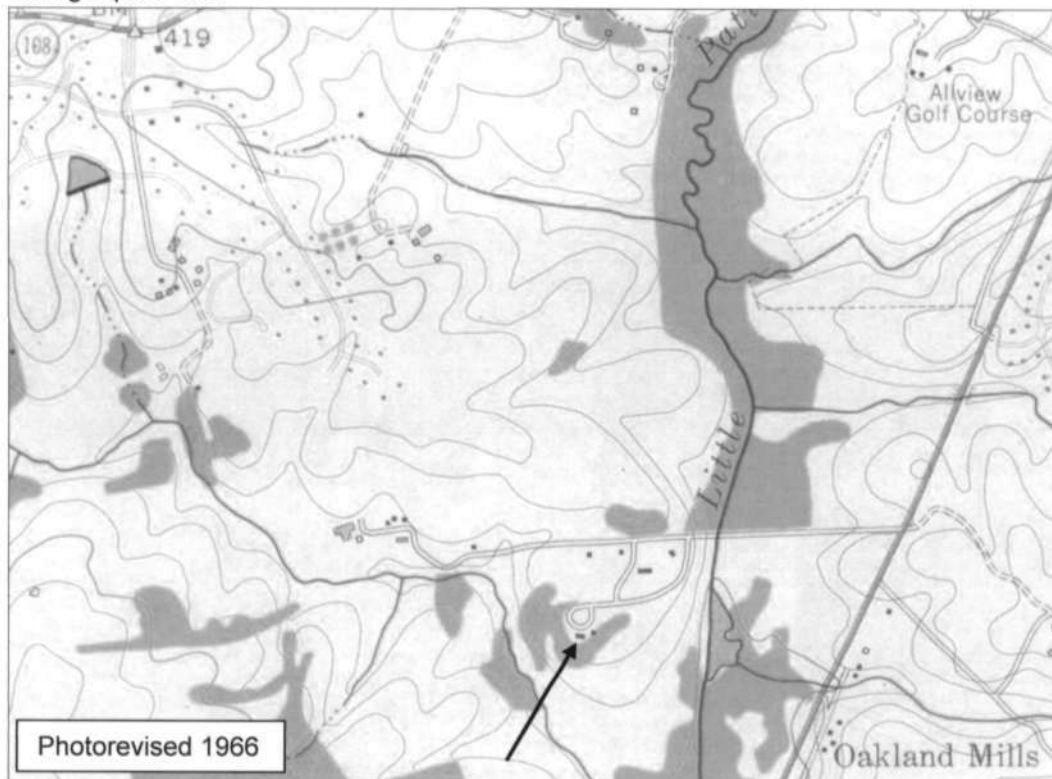


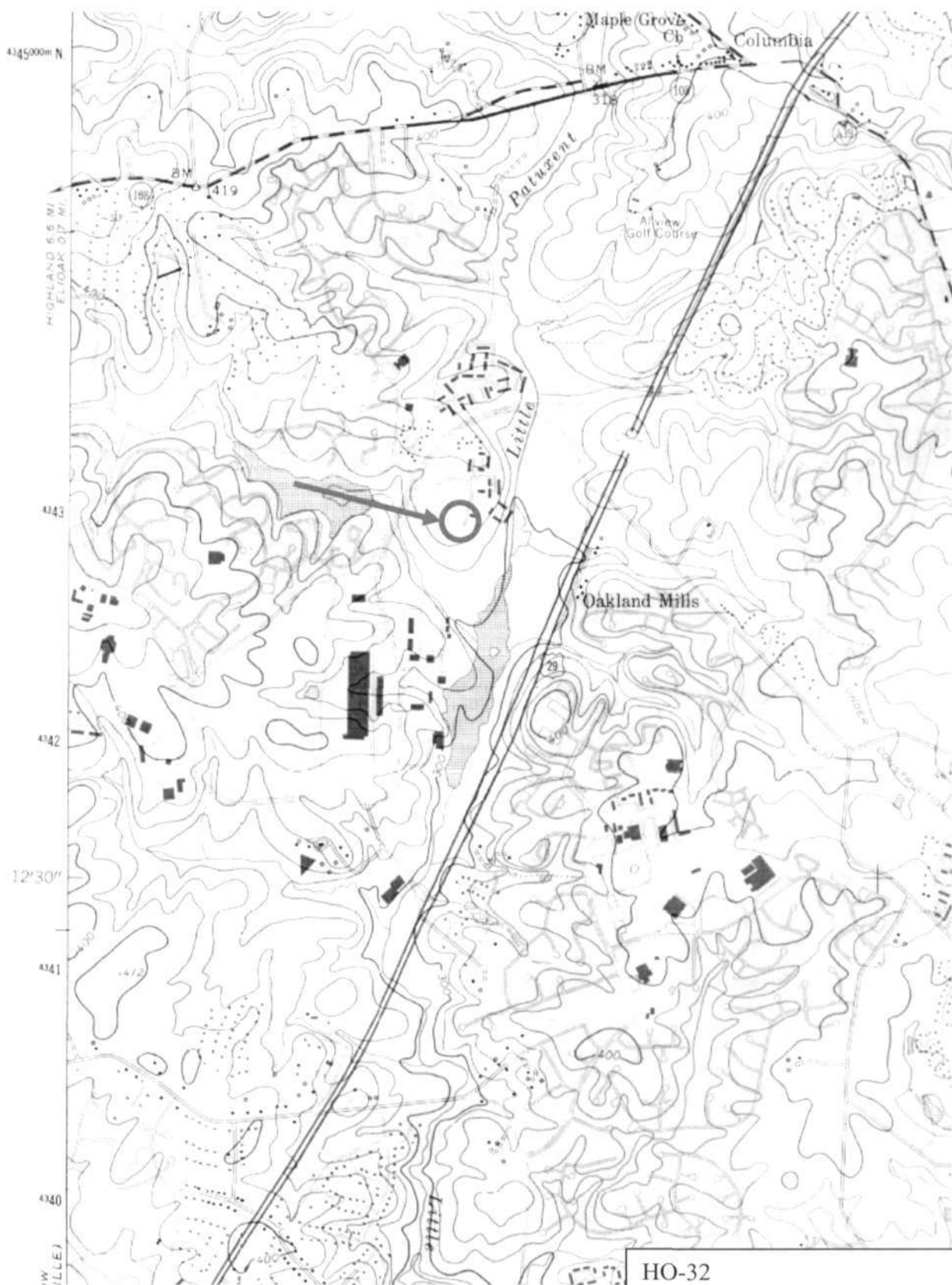
HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
First floor plan, 2007



HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Second floor plan, 2007

HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Savage quad 1957





HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Savage Quad



HO-32  
Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
HP Premium Plus paper  
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-0032\_20071003\_01  
North & west elevations

HO-0032\_20071003\_02  
South elevation

HO-0032\_20071003\_03  
North center room, view west

HO-0032\_20071003\_04  
North elevation fanlight, interior view

HO-0032\_20071003\_05  
West wing chamber mantel detail

HO-0032\_20071003\_06  
Attic stairway

HO-0032\_20071003\_07  
Attic floor framing--hip outriggers



40-32

Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Pl  
Howard Co. MD  
Ken Start, photographer

10-3-07

North and west elevations

1/1



40-32

Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Rd  
Howard Co MD  
Ken Shurt, photographer

10-03-07

South elevation

2/7





HO-32

Cakled Manor

5430 Vantage Point Rd

Howard Co MD

Ken Short, photographer

10-3-07

North center room, view west

3/7

EXIT



HO-32

Oakland Manor

543e Vantage Point Rd

Ken Short, photographer

10-3-07

North elevation far left, interior view

4/7





H0-32

Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Rd  
Howard Co. MD  
Ken Skurt, photographer

10-3-07

West wing chamber mantel detail

5/7



HO-32

Oakland Manor

5430 Vantage Point Rd

Harland Co MD

Ken Short, photographer

10-3-07

at the stairway

6/7



H0-32

Oakland Manor

543e Vantage Point Rd

Howard Co. MD

Ken Short, photographer

10-3-07

athletic floor framing - hip outriggers

7/7



HO-32  
OAKLAND MANOR  
Private  
Columbia

One of the great Manor houses of Howard County, Oakland Manor is associated with the Honourable John Dorsey who surveyed Dorsey's Adventure in 1688 and later willed the property to his grandson Edward Dorsey. Robert Oliver, an Englishman acquired the property in 1827 and some ten years later George R. Gaither bought "Oakland Manor". Colonel George Riggs Gaither, his son, was famous for "Gaithers Thoopers" who held their Sunday reviews at Oakland Manor and later became a unit of the Confederate Army. Oakland Manor is most noteworthy, however, as the home of Luther Martin who settled in Maryland about 1770. He became one of Maryland's greatest lawyers, attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and playing an important role in developing the compromise plan in legislative representation. Despite this fact, he refused to sign the document and opposed ratification. In 1818 he became Attorney General of Maryland and served four years in that capacity.

Architecturally the manor is a fine blending of the Federal, Greek revival and Romanesque. The federal elements are found in the hipped roof, the twin central chimneys, and the large fan light over the central north entrance door. The ground floor windows are inset into roman arch recesses ante dating the Beaux-Art style of the 1890's and more representative of the Romanesque. The central north porch or portico with the attached porte cochere supported by massive doric columns is representative of the Greek Revival style.

1400325304

HO-32  
District 5

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1. NAME					
COMMON: Oakland Manor					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Dorsey's Adventure					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Vantage Point Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia					
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Howard		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Presently un-occupied		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Columbia Service Property, Inc.					
STREET AND NUMBER: Rouse Company Building/ Little Patuxent Parkway					
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia,			STATE: Maryland	21045	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records					
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse/Howard County					
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott			STATE: Maryland	21043	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): See Tax Map 30					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS p.308 8.28 acres 476/552 & 463/196.					
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historical Trust Sites Inventory					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust					
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle					
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland	21401	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oakland Manor is a three sectional stone building facing north whose central two story high, three bay wide, one room deep hipped roof section is taller in scale than its east and west gabled roof (running east-west) two story high, three bay wide, one room deep stone wings which spring from the center section's east and west walls. The central section features central twin wide brick chimneys, and a fine one story high Palladian portico running the entire width of the central front elevation of the house, held by five doric columns and two pilasters applied to each end of the north wall of the central section of the manor. A simple wooden railing connects the columns and encloses the porch from which is extended a porte cochere supported by an additional six doric columns on two wide stone pillars. A simple cornice decorated with a row of dentils runs along the perimeter of the porch and porte cochere.

The central north entrance holds a cross paneled door with fan lite which has a newly built enclosed outer porch featuring a roman arch with twelve rectangular lites, the middle four taking up the upper portion of a central door.

Above the central entrance lies a tripartite window composed of a central rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites flanked by narrow rectangular double-hung windows with two-over-two lites and decorated by a single projecting hipped roof flat wooden lintel held by brackets. A rectangular double-hung window holding six-over-six lites lies on each side of this central window and is surmounted by a hipped roof projecting flat wooden lintel held by brackets. A shed roofed dormer window holding two lites lies east of the central chimneys facing east.

The fenestration of the building is rectangular in shape, double-hung, proportionally scaled and vertically aligned with six-over-six lites decorated with projecting wooden sills and shutters. The following exceptions are 1) The second floor windows of the east and west wings hold four-over-four lites, and the basement windows which lie under each of the three first and second floor windows of the east and west bays hold three-over-three lites. A stone belt course runs above the cellar windows separating the basement and first floors of the east and west wings. The first floor windows of the east and west wings are placed into roman arch recesses which are decorated with stretcher stone roman arch lintels.

2) A rectangular entrance door is located in the second floor middle bay of the east wing's north wall with an iron fire escape to the ground.

No apertures appear on the east and west walls of the east and west wings of the original house but a stone parapet rises from these end walls flush with them. The wide brick east and west chimneys inset into these walls continue this parapet affect with the central chimneys rising from the middle of each wide chimney and giving a stepped effect to the parapet.

A one bay deep, four bay wide stone addition lies on the south featuring first floor roman arch recesses into which are placed rectangular double-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

hung windows in the east and west bays holding six-over-six lites and two french doors in the two central bays, the one to the west being boarded up. Above lie rectangular double-hung windows, those in the east and west bays holding six-over-three lites (air conditioning units take the bottom three lites of the windows), while those in the central two bays hold six-over-two lites. They are decorated with stretcher stone flat arched lintels and shutters. A one story shed roofed brick addition lies on the west wing's south wall with a rectangular entrance located in the west bay.

The open terrace which lies along the central section of the south wall has a wooden ballustrade along its southern perimeter connected by five brick and stone piles. Wide stone steps on the east and west approach the terrace. The south wall of the east wing holds first floor rectangular doublehung windows with six-over-six lites while the second floor windows hold four-over-four lites, with the west bay of this section holding a rectangular entrance door approached by an iron fire escape.

To the east lies the Eye of the Camel Art Studio which previously had belonged to the caretaker of the manor, north lies Governor Warfield Parkway and south lies Lake Kittamagundi. The Manor House sits on a lovely hill facing north, over looking Columbia and Wilde Lake.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oakland Manor stands on "Dorsey's Adventure", a survey of 1688 by the Honourable John Dorsey. John willed this survey to his grandson Edward Dorsey. On this property was later built Oakland Manor which Colonel John Dorsey sold to Luther Martin, Attorney General of Maryland in 1785.

This farm comprised all or parts of "Dorsey's Adventure" "Dorsey's Inheritance" (c. 1688 - 400 acres) "Good for Little", "Chew's Vineyard" and "Adam the First (1687-500 acres) embracing some 1100 acres.

In 1827 the property was sold to Robert Oliver, an Englishman who increased the estate to 2300 acres and later sold it to Col. Charles Sterrett Ridgely.

In 1838, George R. Gaither of Baltimore bought "Oakland Manor", his son, Colonel George Riggs Gaither, organized "Gaithers Troopers" which later became a unit of the Confederate Army.

As the home of Luther Martin, Oakland Manor has national as well as State-local significance. Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey on February 9, 1748, Luther Martin graduated from Princeton University and settled in Maryland about 1770. He became one of Maryland's greatest lawyers, attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and playing an important role in developing a compromise in regard to legislative representation. As a delegate he urged harmony and compromise and due to a powerful address to the members of the Constitutional Convention a committee was appointed to consider alternate plans for representation. Martin served on this committee which resulted in our bicameral legislature, offering equality of representation in the Upper House or Senate and representation based on population in the Lower House or House Of Representatives.

Luther Martin was not satisfied with the final draft of the Constitution and refused to sign it or advocate ratification. In 1818 he became Attorney General of Maryland and served for four years in that capacity. In 1826 he died in New York at the house of Aaron Burr.

Architecturally the house is a fine blending of the Federal, Greek revival and Romanesque. The federal elements are found in the hipped roof, the twin chimneys, and the large fanlight over the central north entrance door. The ground floor windows are inset into roman arch recesses ante dating the Beaux-Art style of the 1890's, and more representative of the Romanesque. The central north porch or portico with the attached porte cochere supported by massive doric columns is representative of the Greek revival style.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Warfield, J. D. Founders of Ann Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland.  
Baltimore, 1973 pp 388, 390, 392, 393 and 421

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please See Tax Map 30

463/196 & 476/552 p. 10 p. 308

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist		
ORGANIZATION Comprehensive Planning Section	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Courthouse Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE Maryland	21043

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



OAKLAND MILLS PROPERTY--1923

Ellicott City Times, June 28, 1923, p. 4:

HE-32

Karr, Hammond, &amp; Darnall

Attorney's Sale .... Valuable Fee Simple Property, Known as Oakland Manor and located in the fifth election district of Howard County on the road leading from Ellicott City to Scaggsville.

By virtue of the power contained in a mortgage dated June 6, 1921 from John V. Findlay .....

FIRST: All that tract of land particularly described by metes and bounds in the mortgage aforesaid containing 350 acres, 2 roods, and 9 square perches of land, more or less.

SECOND. So much as is not included within the above described parcel of land, being a mill seat and the land whereon Oakland Mills formerly stood, together with what was formerly a millrace and all appurtenances thereto belonging. Among the improvements on said property are: the colonial manor house containing 15 rooms, three baths, 120 x 60 feet, built of stucco over stone, gardeners house containing 8 rooms, and a tenant house containing 8 rooms. The manor house and gardener's house being equipped throughout with electricity being supplied by a private line connected with the lines of Con. Elec. and P. Co. Water is furnished by a ram from a nearby stream rushing through the property. Also a stone stable 100 x 26 feet now used as a garage, cpw stable 60 x 20 feet, stalls for 20 cows, dairy, smoke house, and other necessary out-buildings, two beautiful meadows, containing about 100 acres with two streams of water running through them. The property adjoins the property owned by Dorsey M. Williams. It has a large frontage on the County road leading from Ellicott City to Scaggsville, known as the Old Columbia Road .....

R. BENNETT DARNALL



Gales

Page 5  
HO-155  
District 6

## OAKLAND MILLS:

American, July 31, 1824, p. 1, col. 4: (short adv.)

Merchant and saw mill with the store and dwelling house, cooper's shop, and about 16 acres arable land.—The stand is reputed to be an excellent one for a country store .... well known by the name of the "Oakland Mills." For terms enquire of

JOHN B. MORRIS,  
President of the City Bank

American, Sept 21, 1838, p. 3, col. 7

## OAKLAND FOR SALE

... Estate ... of Thomas Oliver, Esq. .... The improvements are of the most costly, substantial and elegant kind. The main building or Mansion House, is of stone and rough cast,—48 feet by 41—with two wings attached on the East and West, built and finished in the same manner: each wing being 31 feet by 22, making the whole length of the building 110 feet; with a piazza to the main house of 46 feet by 7½ deep. The walls of the House are 26 inches thick. There is a large Hall—6 rooms and 2 pantries on the first floor—7 rooms and a large closet on the second floor, 3 bed rooms and wine closet in the garrett and 5 rooms or apartments besides a wine room in the cellar or basement—and also a hot air furnace for warming the whole house. Near the east wing is a wash house, and an ice house, both built of stone in the most convenient and suitable manner—the ice house is arched and capable of holding about 1200 bushels of ice. The carriage house and stabling (which are also of stone and built in the most faithful manner) is 91 feet by 36. All of these buildings were erected by General Ridgely, in the most strong and beautiful manner. ....

There is also on this estate, and immediately on the Turnpike Road, a fine Mill Seat, upon which lately stood a large Grist mill, 5 stories high, 51 feet by 40, and which ran 4 pair of stones, and supplied with water from the Patuxent river. The inside of this mill was recently burnt, leaving the greater portion of the walls standing, which are of stone;—to this mill was formerly attached a saw and Plaster Mill, which were burnt at the time the Grist mill was burnt. Near where the walls of the mill are, is the Miller's House, a large Store and dwelling

Ron - More puzzle pieces  
for Oakland!

## A REPORT FOR THE ADAPTIVE USES OF OAKLAND

The Howard County Regional Chapter of the American Red Cross has realized that their building Oakland, also known as Oakland Manor, is presently under utilized but has great potential for use by other non-profit organizations as well as for their own offices. In addition, with minor changes the mansion can regain much of its architectural distinction and become a very handsome setting for receptions, meetings and parties.

### HISTORY

From the time of its construction in 1820 until about the Second World War, Oakland was recognized as one of the major houses in Howard County. Over the past fifty years, the house has lost parts of its architectural character and its early history forgotten.

Oakland sits on part of the tract of land patented as "Felicity". The Federal Direct Tax of 1798 lists Deborah Sterrett as the owner of Felicity which contained a little over 1,100 acres. There were two houses on the property, one of log and stone and the other of log. More research should be done on the property history using primary source material in the Hall of Records, but it appears that Deborah Sterrett, who was the widow of John Sterrett, had inherited the property from her father's family the Ridgelys. Until Howard County was formed in 1851, this area was part of Anne Arundel County and referred to as Upper Anne Arundel. The Ridgelys were one of the wealthiest families in Upper Anne Arundel in the eighteenth century.

At Deborah Sterrett's death, Felicity was inherited by her son Charles, who, in 1820, constructed the present mansion as a country seat which he called Oakland.

At some time, probably shortly after 1800, Charles Sterrett changed his name to Charles Sterrett Ridgely. It is likely that this was done in order to inherit the estate of an uncle. In the Baltimore City directories, Charles S. Ridgely is listed as "gentleman" indicating that he had neither a business nor a profession. He was a member of the Class of 1802 at St. John's College and was elected to the House of Delegates in Annapolis where he was Speaker of the

House. In 1808 he fought a duel with William Barney. He had his portrait done by the French painter Charles St. Memin. An engraving, also by St. Memin, of the pastel portrait survives. Charles Sterrett Ridgely maintained a town house on Franklin Street near Charles which was then the newest and most fashionable neighborhood of Baltimore. He raised a squadron of cavalry and in 1812 held the rank of major in the Maryland militia. After 1815, he was always referred to as General Ridgely.

In 1825, two years before his death, Charles Sterrett Ridgely sold Oakland for \$47,000.00 to Robert Oliver, one of the great merchant princes of Baltimore. Oliver gave the estate, which contained 567 acres, to his son Thomas Oliver for use as a summer residence. The Olivers increased the size of the property to approximately 775 acres by purchasing adjacent tracts known as "Talbott's Resolution Manor", "Howard's Fair and Amicable Settlement", "Joseph's Gift", "Dorsey's Search" and "Dorsey's Search Resurveyed".

The Thomas Olivers put Oakland up for sale in 1838. The advertisement in the Baltimore American of September 12th read in part:

OAKLAND FOR SALE ... The improvements are of the most costly, substantial and elegant kind. The main building or Mansion House, is of stone and rough cast, - 48 feet by 41 - with two wings attached on the East and West, built and finished in the same manner: each wing being 31 feet by 22, making the whole length of the building 110 feet; with a piazza to the main house of 46 feet by 7½ feet deep. The walls of the House are 26 inches thick. There is a large Hall - 6 rooms and 2 pantries on the first floor - 7 rooms and a large closet on the second floor, 3 bed rooms and wine closet in the garrett and 5 rooms or apartments besides a wine room in the cellar or basement - and also a hot air furnace for warming the whole house. Near the east wing is a wash house, and an ice house, both built of stone in the most convenient and suitable manner - the ice house is arched and capable of holding about 1200 bushels of ice. The carriage house and stabling (which are also of stone and built in the most faithful manner) is 91 feet by 36. All of these buildings were erected by General Ridgely, in the most strong and beautiful manner.

The estate was purchased in November by George Riggs Gaither, a Baltimore merchant, for \$50,459.95. Gaither was another of the spectacularly successful merchants in Baltimore's early history. He arrived in the city in 1825 at the age of 28 and "retired to private life" 15 years later. A biographical sketch of Gaither published shortly after his death in 1875 stated: "Mr. Gaither purchased and resided for several years on the magnificent country seat in Howard County, Maryland, known as 'Oakland', which was the former property and residence of the late Charles Sterrit (sic) Ridgely. ... Mr. George R. Gaither accumulated a princely fortune in Mercantile operations and judicious financial transactions, ... The estate he left may be estimated in the millions."

George Gaither sold Oakland to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Tabb in 1864. The Tabbs were interested in racing and during their ownership a half mile track was constructed and a number of the famous race horses of the latter part of the nineteenth century were bred and trained there. A detailed map of the estate was made during the Tabb ownership which shows the location of all of the buildings and roads and indicates gardens and orchards near the mansion.

In 1906 John V. L. Finley purchased Oakland, then totaling 421 acres, from the Tabbs' heirs. Finley was descended from a distinguished Baltimore family and had recently married the daughter of General Columbus O'Donnell. From stylistic evidence, it was probably the Finleys who constructed the present porch and porte-cochere on the entrance front and the porch on the garden side. Photographs show that the south porch was two stories high and had a gallery at the second floor level. When the Finleys sold the property in 1923, the mansion was advertised as containing 15 rooms and three baths, and was lighted by electricity.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Ryan of Washington became the owners of Oakland in the mid-1930s. The June 9, 1940 issue of the Baltimore Sunday Sun reported that the Ryans had been making extensive changes to the mansion. The original stucco was removed. The south porch was also removed and a terrace created on that side. The greenhouse at the east end of the house was demolished and the space made into a rose garden. On the interior, the entrance hall and two flanking rooms were removed to create a large hall. The chimneys for the rooms were demolished and the two staircases redesigned. The partition between the pair of parlors across the south side was removed to form a drawing room.

Oakland passed through a number of ownerships after the Second World War before being acquired by the Rouse Company as part of their planned community of Columbia. The house then suffered several years of hard use until becoming the headquarters of the Howard County Office of the American Red Cross.



NORTH ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS  
TO  
OAKLAND  
1434 VANTAGE POINT ROAD  
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND 21046  
FOR THE  
HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE  
AMERICAN RED CROSS



MICHAEL F. TROSTEL, AIA  
ARCHITECT  
1507 Sutton Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21207  
301 682-2966

A-4

NOV 1986

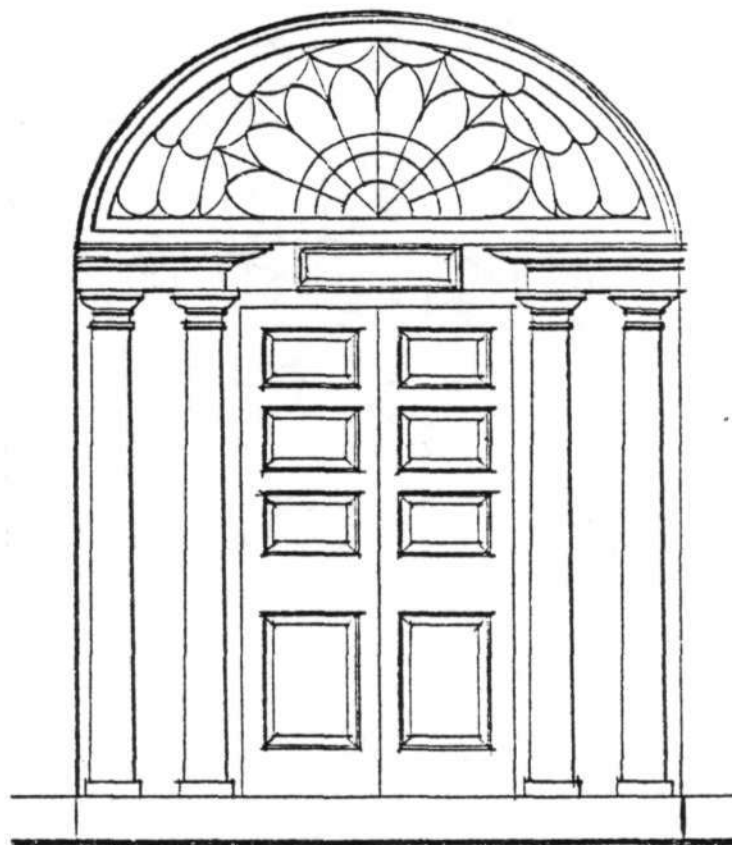
HO-32



HO-32

A REPORT  
FOR THE  
ADAPTIVE USES  
OF  
OAKLAND

FOR  
THE HOWARD COUNTY REGIONAL CHAPTER  
OF THE  
AMERICAN RED CROSS  
8434 VANTAGE POINT ROAD  
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND 21044



BY  
MICHAEL F. TROSTEL, AIA  
1307 BOLTON STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21217  
301/669-3964

MAY 1985



# CLASSICAL MARYLAND

## 1815-1845

*Fine and Decorative Arts from the Golden Age*

Gregory R. Weidman  
Jennifer F. Goldsborough  
with

Robert L. Alexander  
Stiles Tuttle Colwill  
Mary Ellen Hayward  
Catherine A. Rogers

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY OF MARYLAND HISTORY

1993

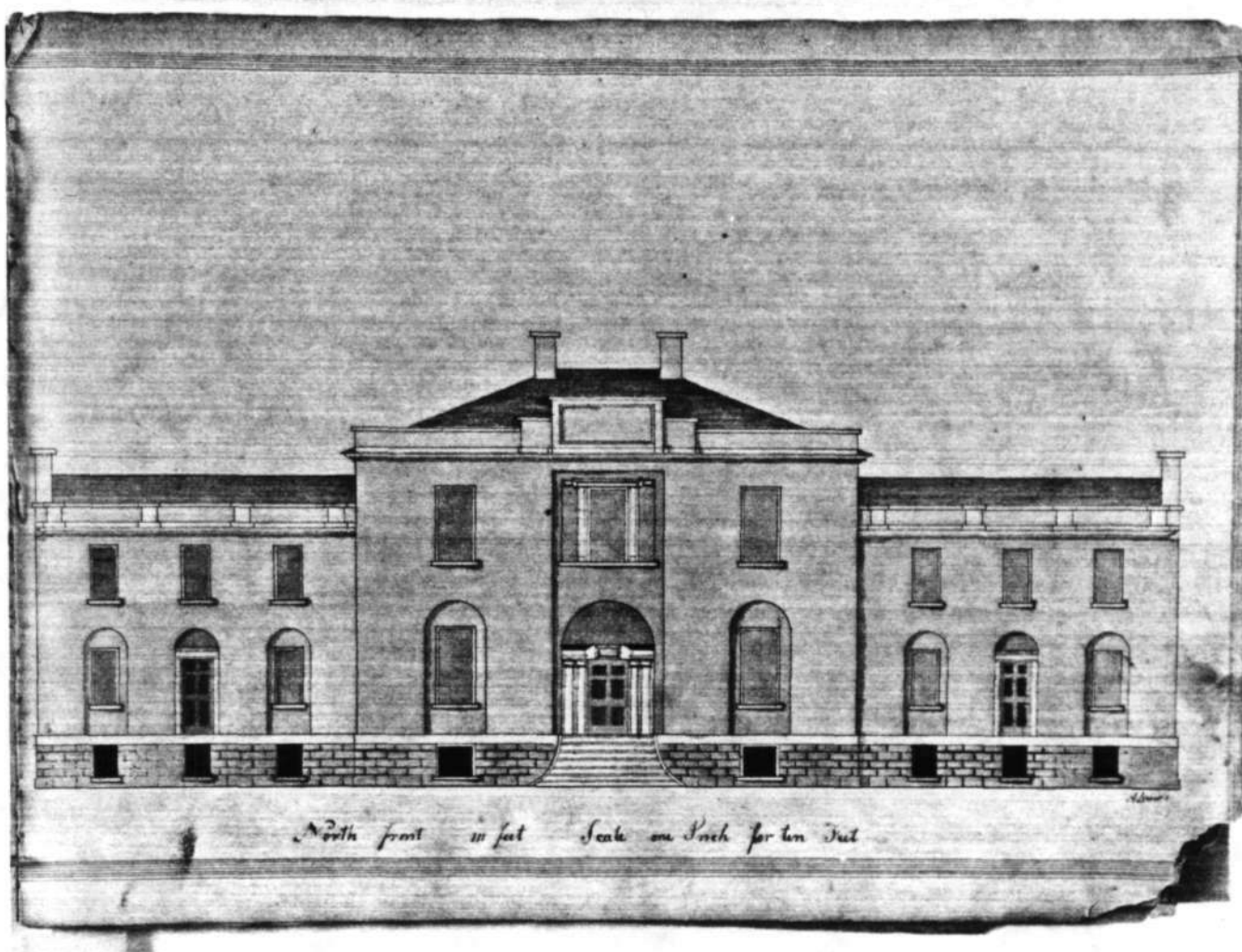


Fig. 26. Oakland  
 Abraham Lerew  
 1810-1811, near Ellicott City  
 North Front, 1810; 8 3/4 x 12 in.; black ink; yellow and gray washes.  
 Maryland Historical Society

This rural villa for Charles Sterret Ridgley is unified by the continuous base and the series of Adamesque windows in arched recesses. Built of local stone in irregular courses, the house probably was stuccoed, a popular treatment at the turn of the century; as the drawing indicates, it may have been painted yellow. The attenuated Tuscan columns probably were chosen as a symbol of the rural location.

Church (1814-1817; no. 25) the brick was stuccoed, a neoclassical fashion beginning around the turn of the century, and along with white stone and wood painted white the whole contrasted with the red and white coloration typical of the previous century. Its great tower was unusual in the age of neoclassical horizontality, but this survival from the Wren-Gibbs tradition marked the church as the seat of a bishopric, the first built since the Revolution. Its height was somewhat mitigated by the emphasis on the sequence of

classical orders, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite. Making a grand entrance, the four pairs of Doric columns had correct Greek form and proportions taken from the publication of Stuart and Revett that Long borrowed from the Baltimore Library Company. From the same Library he obtained Adam's volumes which he used for interior finish.

In the villa Oakland (1810-1811; no. 26), Abraham Lerew (d. 1817) fused the major elements of the traditional five-part house (such as

X



Fig. 27. Benjamin Henry Latrobe (by 1764-1820)  
By Rembrandt Peale  
Oil on Canvas, c. 1816  
Gift of Mrs. Gamble Latrobe, 81.15

In Peale's sympathetic portrait, the raised head and lively eyes suggest Latrobe's alertness and quick mind. Educated at Moravian schools in his native England and in Germany, he acquired architecture and engineering through apprenticeship. In America from 1796 to 1820, he died of yellow fever in New Orleans where he had gone to establish a municipal waterworks. Of highest importance among his American activities, he supervised construction of the U.S. Capitol and the White House before and after the destruction of 1814.

Homewood, the Carroll mansion) in an integrated design, with the main block rising higher and the wings spreading to either side. Arched windows in shallow recesses stress the planarity of the smooth wall stretched skin tight between the masonry-coursed basement and the blocking course of the attic. The elegant balance and tension characterize the Federal style.

A very strong element in early nineteenth-cen-

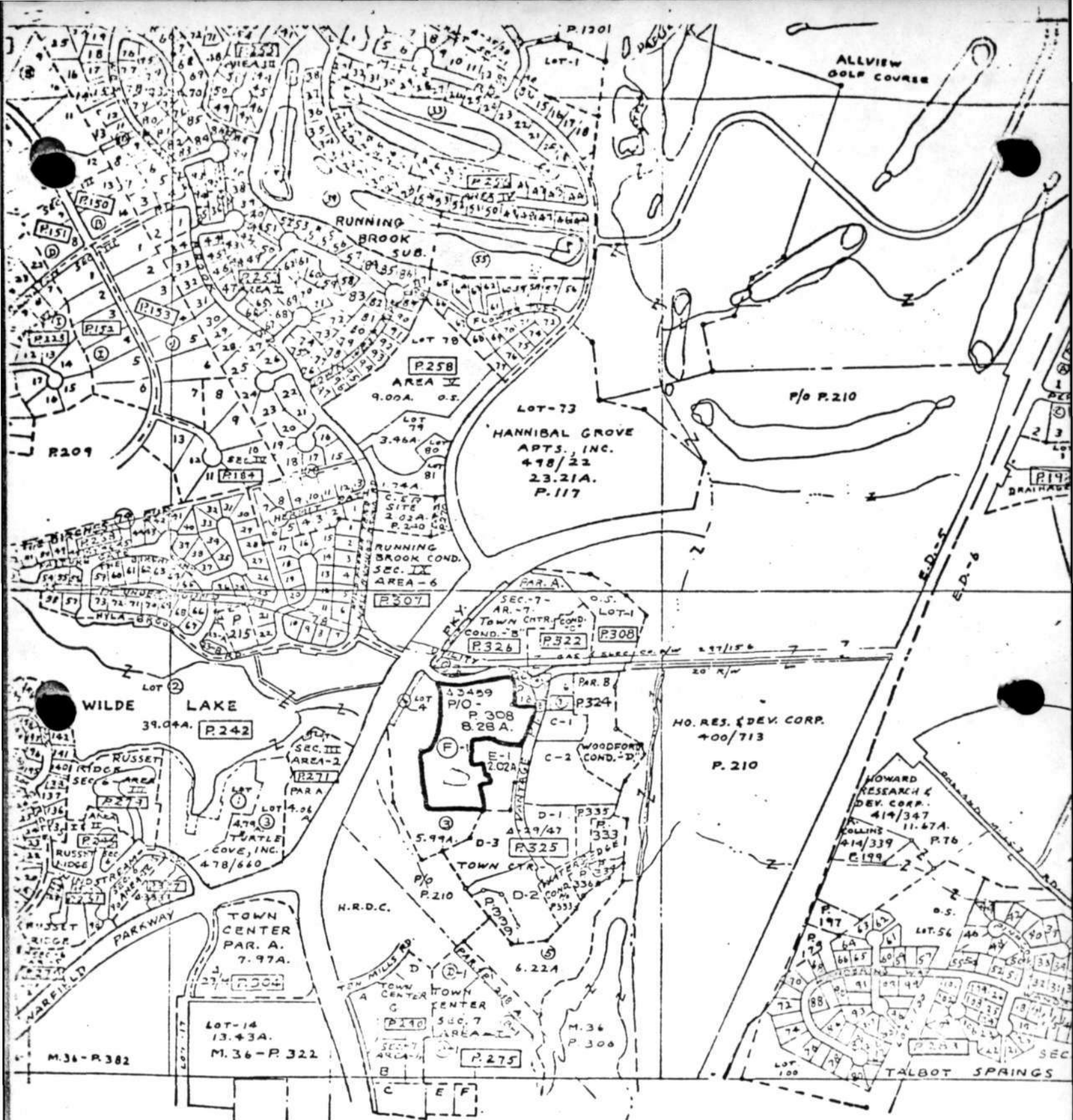
tury Baltimore was the second phase, the modern style of Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1764-1820), part of the movement stressing fundamental building forms and functions. This concern arose in Europe and although each country developed its particular version, the common interest led to shared language and motifs. Latrobe's was the English version, the foremost practitioner of which was Sir John Soane, architect of the Bank of England and other buildings as well as a teacher. Latrobe passed it on to such an early pupil as Robert Mills (1781-1855) and a late one William F. Small (1798-1832). The French form of this modern style was introduced by Maximilian Godefroy (1765-c.1840) after his arrival in Baltimore in 1805. Out of a shared interest in the restoration of the art of architecture, such men studied the early stages of building when, they theorized, the forms responded to human needs and the first efforts at construction. Many buildings show this dual concern, but the architects did not always achieve a balance of the two aspects. Some directed their attention to the expression of a building's function through its forms. The designs of others reflected basic structural devices, and columns actually carried and supported the structure. Whether of wood, stone, or brick, walls served for both support and enclosure, and thus their continuity and solidity were paramount. Much thought was given to how to break into the wall plane with doors and windows, niches and other recesses. A related interest was the use of simple geometrical forms, usually shaped by the bare walls and roof. Ornament was acceptable only as an architectural device such as the capital of a column spreading the weight of the beam carried overhead, or the cornice topping a wall and protecting it from rain. These were extreme positions, of course, and most architects sought both goals.

These architects often took stylistic cues from antiquity. Both Greek and Roman examples were emulated. Latrobe's Roman Catholic Cathedral has a Greek Ionic portico (built 1860-1863, no. 28). An entire building, the Roman Pantheon, served as the prototype for Long's Medical College and Robert Mills's First Baptist Church (1816-1818).

HO-32

See Also:

Wilde Lake Barn  
HO-576



H0-32  
Oakland Manor  
Tax Map 30

Published  
1976

SCALE  
1" = 800'

COPYRIGHT  
MD DEPT OF



214 SW  
KESVILLE

39000 £

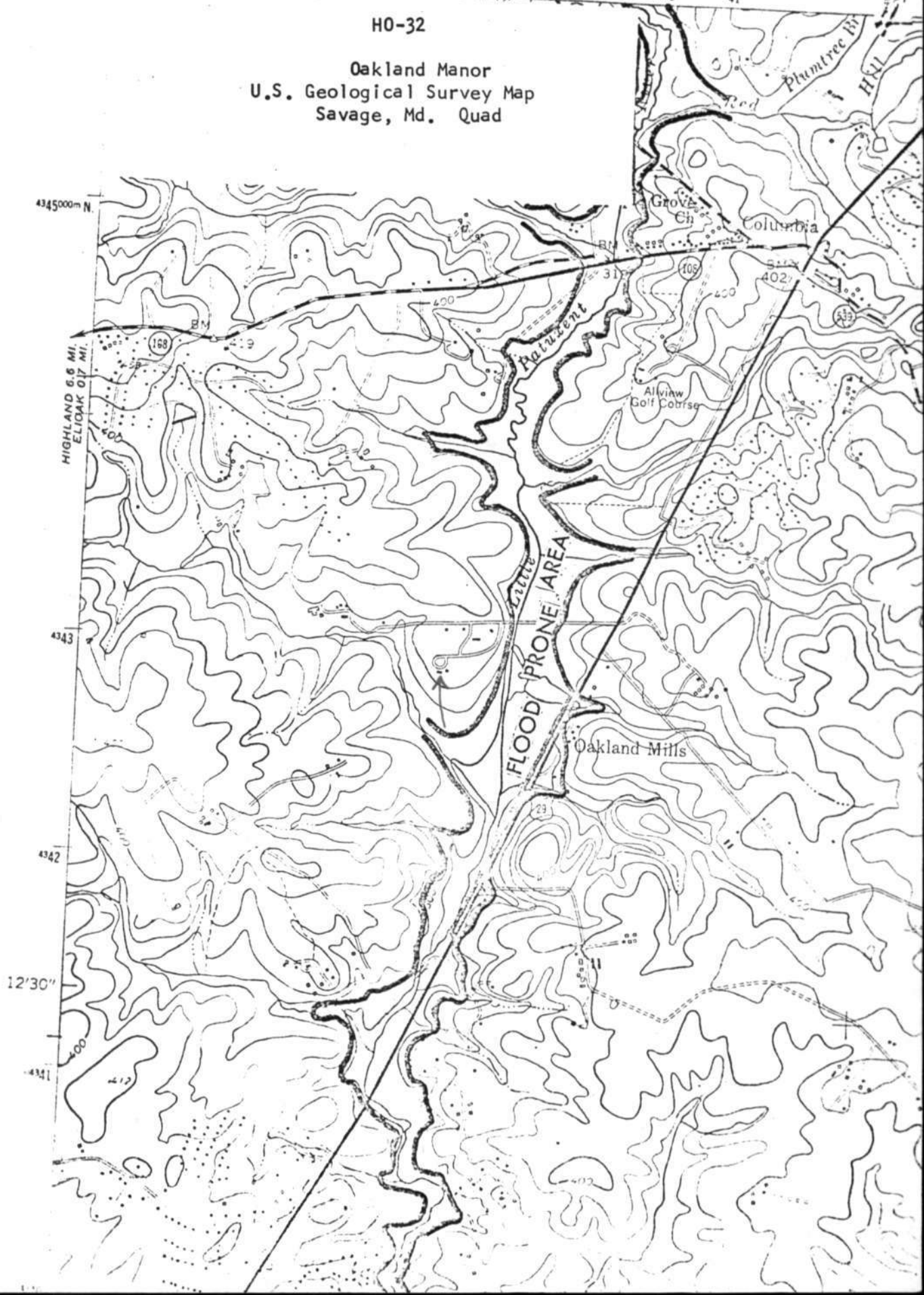
1340

2.3 MI. TO U.S. 40

341

## Oakland Manor

U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Savage, Md. Quad







H0-32  
OAKLAND MANOR

GLEORA BARNES THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

HO-32 (RIA)  
Oakland Manor

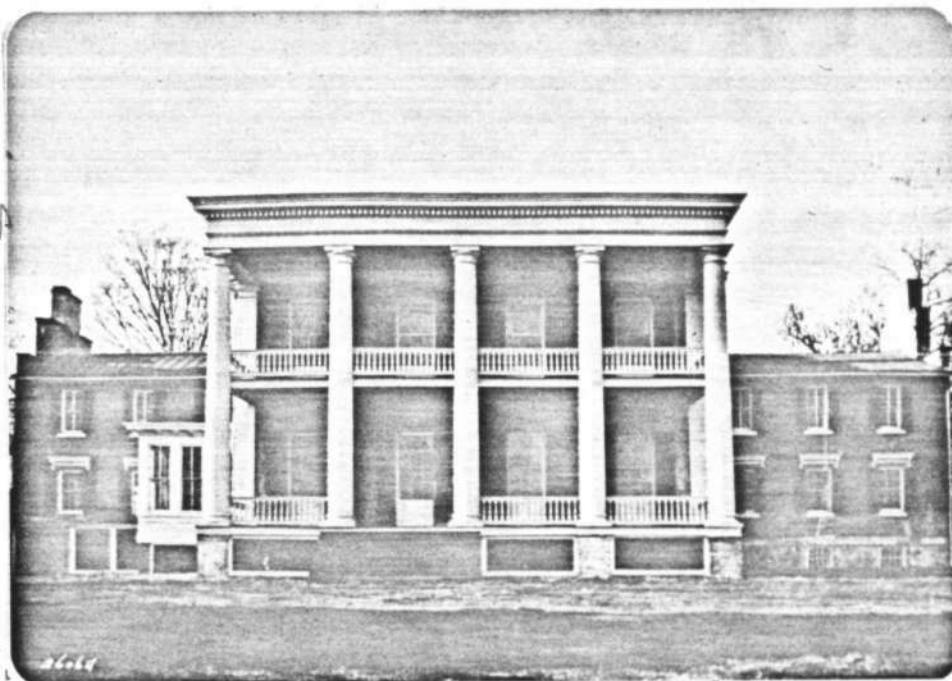


Ron—

Sorry for the poor  
quality — I will see  
if I can get get slides.

Note:

1. House was completely  
stuccoed
2. Window Hoods on 1st  
floor windows
3. Odd chimney walls  
on wings.



England was great!  
E

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1964

MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST



HO-32 DIST 5  
OAKLAND MANOR  
COLUMBIA, MD

~~GLEORA BARNETT THOMPSON~~  
~~PLANNING CONSULTANT~~  
~~HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY~~

MHT FILE



HO-32

